

En Voyage

Aurigny's leisure and business magazine

ISSUE 33

SPREAD YOUR WINGS

COMMUNITY
SPIRIT

BUSINESS
NEWS

SPORTS
SECTION

PLUS
LOTS MORE



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"A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES
BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP."

Lao Tzu



IMAGE ©VISITGUERNSEY

#Aurigny

SEND US YOUR SHOTS!

We want to see your photos, perhaps a colourful sunset at 12,000 feet, a runway panoramic or an onboard abstract. Upload your best photo to any social media platform and tag using #Aurigny. It could be featured in the next issue of En Voyage. Please remember to make sure your device is switched to the flight safe mode for taxi, take-off and landing, and upload at a suitable time.



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Early morning at Alderney airport



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IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

GREETING FROM AURIGNY CEO NICO BEZUIDENHOUT

Welcome to Aurigny!

As the gateway to the year swings wide open, we invite you to embark on a journey filled with renewal, possibilities, and hope. For eternal optimists like myself, the New Year is a canvas waiting to be painted with dreams and aspirations. I am particularly thrilled as I set out to check off a few items from my bucket list this year, including whisking my wife away to Paris this Spring for her very first visit to the City of Lights. If, like me, Paris is a highlight on your bucket list, then read all about it on page 44.

In the spirit of exploration and wanderlust, Aurigny is delighted to present a lineup of fantastic European destinations for 2024. Whether you're drawn to the vibrant energy of Ibiza, the serene beauty of Menorca, the romantic allure of Paris, the historic charm of Porto, the sun-soaked beaches of Majorca, the cultural richness of Valencia, or the surf and sand of Biarritz, our direct flights offer the perfect starting point for your next adventure.

As you fasten your seatbelts and settle into your metaphorical tray tables of possibilities, join us in exploring the pages of our magazine. We've curated articles covering the joyous celebrations of Chinese New Year, enticing you to immerse yourself in the cultural tapestry of this auspicious occasion. Why not enjoy the largest Chinese New Year

celebration outside of Asia, offering revellers a feast of Chinese culture, food, music, dance and acrobatics, by flying to London? For food enthusiasts, a culinary visit to the city's Chinatown promises a feast for the senses.

We also delve into the history of Guernsey's currency and head to Alderney, to read about its Literary Festival.

For those seeking a quick getaway, discover what to do in Liverpool in just 48 hours – a new direct flight destination that opens the doors to a city steeped in history, culture, and the unmistakable beat of The Beatles. Our articles are crafted to inspire and guide you through the myriad adventures that await in 2024.

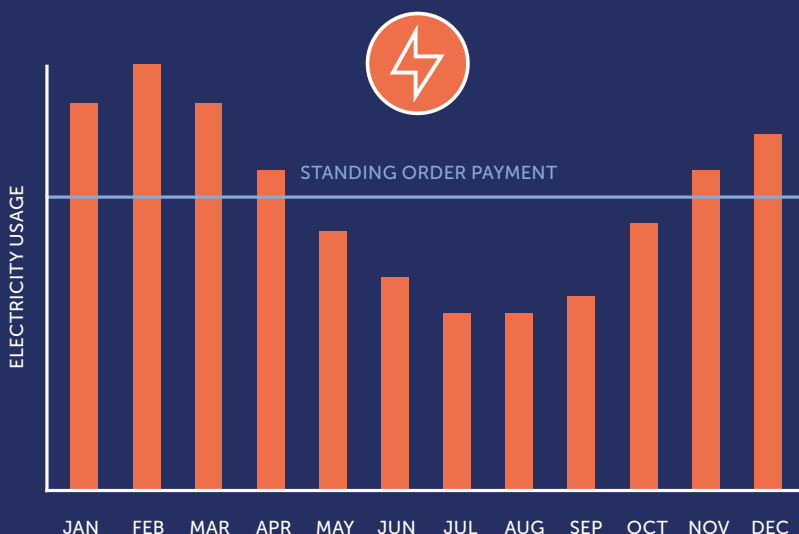
So, what will your year look like in 2024? Aurigny hopes to be your companion as you navigate the skies of endless possibilities. Sit back, relax, and enjoy your flight. Our dedicated cabin staff are here to ensure your comfort and safety throughout the journey. May this year be filled with memorable adventures, new discoveries, and moments that will linger as cherished memories.

Bon voyage!

Nico



HOW AVERAGE HOME ELECTRICITY USAGE FLUCTUATES OVER THE YEAR



THE BAD HABITS COSTING YOU MONEY

ADVERTISEMENT

A winter electricity bill is likely to be landing on your doorstep or inbox soon. Because people tend to use more electricity over the winter months, this might be the biggest of the year. But with some clever tweaks, you can unlock extra money to spend on unforgettable trips and days out with friends and family instead of your energy bill.

There are home energy saving audits available to help islanders spend significantly less on their electricity bills. But for the time being, here are some financial magic tricks to get you started and help cut both your cost and carbon footprint when you're back at home.

MYTH:

Leaving electricals on standby doesn't really cost anything

REALITY:

Often leave the TV or games console on standby just for convenience? A big electricity bill is far more inconvenient.

Standby power, also known as vampire energy, can significantly contribute to your bills over time. One of the easiest ways to save money for more exciting pastimes, such as city breaks or family holidays, is to plug these electricals into an extension lead, then switch them all off at the same time. Just be careful not to overload it!

MYTH:

Turning appliances on and off uses more energy than just leaving them on

REALITY:

The simple answer is anything left on uses money, and everything switched off properly will not. For most appliances, you'll save money simply by switching them off at the socket.

MYTH:

Electric vehicles are worse for the environment than petrol or diesel vehicles

REALITY:

The production of an EV will emit around 40% more in carbon emissions than producing an internal combustion engine vehicle. This is largely due to producing lithium-ion batteries. However, this is only a single stage of the entire vehicle's lifetime. In terms of carbon emissions, across the entire lifecycle a petrol vehicle will produce almost 70% more in carbon emissions – and that even includes EVs charged using electricity generated at Guernsey's power station.

TOP TIP:

Unlock the power of the night and charge your EV between 11pm and 5am for a significantly cleaner, cheaper commute.



SHAKING OFF THESE ENERGY MYTHS
ISN'T ABOUT STOPPING WHAT YOU ENJOY;
IT'S ABOUT EMPOWERING YOUR WALLET
AND CHOOSING WHERE YOU'D REALLY
LIKE TO CHANNEL YOUR ENERGY.

MYTH:

Plug-in heaters are cheaper than a central heating system

REALITY:

Those innocent looking little heaters are incredibly expensive to use, and you should really only use these 'space' heaters for a short time if absolutely necessary. Anything that heats up quickly (such as kettles or hairdryers) is expensive to run. But unlike a heater, kettles and hairdryers generally don't need to run for a long time. So, it stands to reason that if you plug in a 3000-watt heater and leave it to run for a number of hours, you're likely to receive a big bill at the end of your winter quarter.

MYTH:

Solar panels can cheaply provide all the power the Island needs.

REALITY:

Solar power is an 'intermittent energy source' as – particularly in Guernsey – solar isn't available constantly. This means that when the sun doesn't shine, we're unable to completely rely on solar for electricity generation. Properties with solar panels will still need to be connected to the main electricity grid to make sure they always have a reliable supply of electricity from other sources, such as our interconnection to the European grid.

MYTH:

Hand-washing dishes is better than using a dishwasher

REALITY:

Modern dishwashers are designed to be water and energy-efficient, which often means over a dishwasher's lifetime, far less water gets used. And in terms of energy? The cleanest and cheapest way to use a dishwasher in Guernsey is to set the timer to start between 11pm and 5am on the appliance's 'Eco Mode'. This is the secret spot when you can clean your kitchenware slowly over four to five hours on imported, 100% low-carbon electricity.

Shaking off these energy myths isn't about stopping what you enjoy; it's about empowering your wallet and choosing where you'd really like to channel your energy. For updates on our island's electricity and more energy advice, follow us on social media.





OUR FLEET

Aurigny currently has a fleet of six aircraft serving the network.

We introduced our flagship Jet, an Embraer 195, in July 2014 to service the Guernsey-Gatwick route. The twinjet aircraft is the largest aircraft in the fleet, with a capacity of 122 passengers.

Three ATRs also help to serve our UK and European destinations. The newest additions are three brand-new ATR 72-600 aircraft which Aurigny took delivery of at the end of 2019. Each came fitted with a contemporary cabin design which introduced the latest standards of comfort, offering more space for luggage in overhead bins and providing passengers with 18" wide seats.

We took delivery of our second New Generation Dornier 228 in 2017, to serve the Alderney routes.



Embraer 195

NUMBER IN FLEET 1

BUILT Sao Jose Dos Campos, Brazil

ENGINES

2 x General Electric CF34-10E7 Turbofans

MAXIMUM SPEED 542 knots (624 mph)

PASSENGERS CARRIED 122

RANGE 2,500 miles (4,023 km)



ATR 72-600

NUMBER IN FLEET 3

BUILT Toulouse, France

ENGINES

2 x Pratt & Whitney PW-127 M Turboprops

MAXIMUM SPEED 276 knots (318 mph)

PASSENGERS CARRIED 72

RANGE 1,023 miles (1,646 km)



Dornier 228NG

NUMBER IN FLEET 2

BUILT Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany

ENGINES

2 x Garrett TPE331-10 Turboprops

MAXIMUM SPEED 223 knots (257 mph)

PASSENGERS CARRIED 19

RANGE 350 miles (563 km)



1968
Founded



17 MILLION
Aurigny has carried over
17 million passengers
since it was founded



**MORE
ROUTES
IN 2024**

Aurigny will be
operating to more
destinations than ever
before in 2024 while
continuing to operate
its scheduled services



**HOLIDAY
FLIGHTS IN
2020**

Aurigny was one of the
only airlines in the world
to offer isolation-free
holidays in 2020 with
travel corridors between
Alderney, Guernsey and
the Isle of Man



2019
Named Airline
of the Year at
2019 Southampton
Airport Awards



6
Aircraft



1977
First airline in
the world to ban
smoking on all services



1
In-flight marriage



1
FA Cup
Flown to Guernsey
on 19th August 2016



300
Staff



1
Birth on board
Between Alderney
and Guernsey



2019
Ranked best
short-haul airline
by Which?



AURIGNY GUERNSEY'S AIRLINE

**NEW
ROUTES
ADDED**

OK, it's not the easiest of names – pronounced **Or-ree-nee** – but it's certainly one that islanders are proud of. 'Aurigny' is the Norman name for Alderney, the northern island in the Bailiwick of Guernsey, where Aurigny Air Services was launched in 1968.

Aurigny has been serving the Channel Islands for over 50 years and is owned by the States of Guernsey.

OUR DESTINATIONS

FROM GUERNSEY

- ALDERNEY
- BIRMINGHAM
- BRISTOL
- DUBLIN†
- EAST MIDLANDS†
- EDINBURGH†
- EXETER
- GRENoble†
- IBIZA†
- LEEDS BRADFORD†
- LIVERPOOL†
- LONDON CITY
- LONDON GATWICK
- LONDON STANSTED
- MANCHESTER
- MENORCA†
- MAJORCA†
- NEWQUAY†
- PARIS
- SOUTHAMPTON

FROM ALDERNEY

- GUERNSEY
- SOUTHAMPTON

Look out for additional destinations for week-long holidays and short breaks being added throughout 2024.

Direct flights to Alicante, Biarritz, A Coruña, Bilbao, Porto and Valencia are already on sale.

Visit aurigny.com for more details.

† Seasonal route

SAFETY FIRST

COVID SAFETY

The safety of our passengers and crew remains a priority at this stage in the pandemic. Our aircraft are deep cleaned and fogged every day using an antibacterial and antiviral solution which remains active for up to 10 days. Masks are now optional on most Aurigny flights. Please check our latest guidance online for details. Please respect the personal space of others as much as you can.

HAND BAGGAGE

Once you've boarded and located your seat, please ensure your hand baggage is stowed safely. Small bags can be placed underneath the seat in front of you, unless you are seated in an emergency exit row.

All other items should be placed inside an overhead locker. Please take care when opening the overhead lockers as items may have moved during flight and falling items may cause injury.

YOUR SAFETY

We want to look after you on board and our main concern is for your safety and that of the Aurigny crew. Cabin crew are here primarily for your safety, so please pay attention to their instructions. Any feedback about the crew and flight is welcomed.

Life jackets are provided for use in the extremely unlikely event of an emergency. It is an offence to tamper with or remove them without authorisation and this may jeopardise the safety of others.

Both staff and passengers have the right to fly within a calm, safe and friendly environment. Aurigny has a zero-tolerance policy towards any violent, disruptive or offensive behaviour, and crew have been trained to deal with such incidents.

SMOKING

Smoking of cigarettes and e-cigarettes is not permitted on board, including within the toilets.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Allergy information is available for all snacks – please see the packaging label or ask a member of the crew.

TRAVELLING WITH INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Infants under the age of 2 need to be secured whenever the seatbelt sign is on, this can be achieved through the use of a seatbelt loop provided by the airline to secure the infant on an adult's lap. A child over the age of 2 must be secured in their own seat to ensure their safety in the event of an emergency landing or turbulence.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES*

HANDHELD DEVICES WITH A 'FLIGHT SAFE' MODE

Handheld devices, such as tablets, e-readers and mobile phones, may be used during all phases of the flight, provided the 'flight safe' mode is enabled before departure. Larger devices must be safely secured in hand luggage during taxi, take-off and landing, either in the overhead locker or under the seat in front of you. Any device that transmits or receives communications but does not have a flight safe mode must be switched off from doors closed to doors open.

LAPTOPS, ULTRABOOKS AND NOTEBOOKS

Devices may be used during boarding but not for taxi, take-off and landing, when they must be safely stowed away in hand luggage. They may be used in flight, provided they are set to flight safe mode, with WiFi turned off. On the Embraer and ATR Bluetooth may be used throughout the flight.

DEVICES WITHOUT A 'FLIGHT SAFE' MODE

This will include items such as DVD players, electronic games and music players. Only small, handheld devices may be used during taxi, take-off and landing. Larger devices must be switched off and safely stowed away in hand luggage during taxi, take-off and landing.

BLUETOOTH ACCESSORIES

All Bluetooth accessories (for example wireless keyboards, headphones etc.) may be used on the Embraer and the ATR.

ARE THERE ANY TIMES I CANNOT USE MY HANDHELD DEVICES?

Under certain circumstances your flight or cabin crew will ask that all electronic devices be switched off, for example, during refuel operations. This will be announced over the PA.

CAN I USE MY HEADPHONES THROUGHOUT THE FLIGHT?

Personal headphones can be used for some stages of the flight and may be attached to your personal device. We ask that customers remove their headphones whenever the seat belt signs are illuminated during the taxi, take-off and landing phases and during the safety demonstration.

CAN I USE A REMOTE POWER PACK?

Aurigny does not allow passengers to charge their devices while on board our aircraft.

Please ask a member of cabin crew if you have any queries.

*Electronic devices can only be used on the ATR and Embraer E195 aircraft. Unfortunately they cannot be used on the Dornier.

BAGGAGE ADVICE FOR PASSENGERS



Always secure a tag onto your baggage containing key contact details, including where you will be staying.



Insert a sheet of paper into your bag with key personal details, such as your name, contact details, flight numbers and address of where you will be staying.



Carry any essential items, such as money and medication, with you on the flight.



Customise the look of your bag to make it easier to identify.



Immediately report the loss of checked-in luggage if it does not arrive at your destination. Do this before leaving the airport.



ON BOARD

PASSENGER AWARENESS

Welcome on board!

We hope that you will enjoy your flight and of course allow others to enjoy theirs. All passengers have the right to safe, secure and comfortable travel on board our aircraft. Unruly or disruptive behaviour would ruin this experience and could also be traumatic for passengers or crew.

UNRULY BEHAVIOUR PRIOR TO FLIGHT:

If unruly or disruptive behaviour is noticed prior to the flight, please be aware that transport may be denied.

UNRULY BEHAVIOUR DURING THE FLIGHT:

If such behaviour is demonstrated during the flight, please be aware that there may be serious consequences to these actions. The aircraft may divert and make an unscheduled landing, authorities may meet the flight, and the person responsible for the unruly or disruptive behaviour may be arrested, fined, charged and/or prosecuted.

It is for this reason that we ask all passengers to always:

1. Follow crew member instructions promptly
2. Respect crew members and fellow passengers
3. Behave in a safe and appropriate manner
4. Refrain from endangering the safety of the aircraft or its occupants

OFFENCES AND OTHER ACTS COMMITTED ON BOARD AIRCRAFT:

Under the Air Navigation Order (A.N.O) and Aviation & Maritime Security Act the following are considered as unacceptable behaviours on board:

1. Assault and other acts of interference against a crew member on board a civil aircraft
2. Assault and other acts endangering safety or jeopardising good order and discipline on board a civil aircraft
3. Other offences committed on board a civil aircraft

OFFENCES TO AVOID:



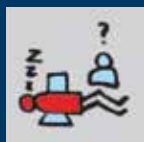
Assaulting, intimidating, threatening a crew member or passenger



Refusing to follow instructions from the crew



Intoxicated or disorderly conduct or consuming alcohol which was not provided by crew members



Engaging in or displaying any indecent or lewd behaviour



Smoking anywhere on board, including in the lavatories



Tampering with the smoke detectors



Using a portable electronic device when not permitted to do so



Removing or damaging safety or emergency equipment, the aircraft or property on board



The Guernsey Tourism Partnership is dedicated to representing and promoting tourism related businesses in Guernsey.

We have created a network of members to share ideas and information to benefit all. Our goal is to establish tourism as one of the core industries in Guernsey and to promote its unique benefits to the public, both locally and abroad. Below are just some of our many partners.

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GUERNSEY

Beach Guide

Guernsey has a beach and a bay for everyone. Here we discover Fontenelle Bay.



FONTENELLE BAY

The access road – an unpaved dirt track that cuts between a shooting range, rows of dilapidated greenhouses and several ramshackle brick chimneys – is your first warning: this ain't Cobo. One of the few bays in Guernsey without any sand at all, Fontenelle Bay presents you with a quietly unsettling, but far from unpleasant, seaside experience.

Looking out to sea, time stands still. Gentle waves crackle on the stony shoreline. Flocks of seabirds fish from the numerous rocks dotted offshore, diving in and out of the water. This is the first land these migrating birds have come across since leaving England's south coast, over 70 miles to the north. The birds' granite bases are big and curiously shaped, and if you squint (a lot) they start to resemble dragons and giants and humpback sea monsters and other creatures of myth and legend. And the feeling of timelessness swirls around the bay.

At the western end of the beach you'll find 'Le Pied du Boeuf', a granite rock marked with a curious hoof print. Local folklore holds that this is the place where the Devil, having been driven from the rest of the island by an unknown Saint,

made a desperate last stand. As the Saint triumphed again the Devil fled north to the Brayes Rocks, leaving a hoof print in the granite as he leapt out to sea. Another set of hoof prints is rumoured to be visible at the Brayes Rocks, but it's a brave soul who would make that trip.

Further along the beach, take a break and watch the procession of white breakers rolling in from Alderney. Fort Le Marchant stands impassively on the western

headland, and rows of old greenhouses idle in the breeze. You can sit on the stones and observe all this in total solitude, as you're likely to have the place to yourself. There are few more hauntingly beautiful spots on the island.

Optimum Tide: High

Best Feature: This rugged bay offers a different kind of beach experience.

Taken from Guernsey Beach Guide



TOP RIGHT: FORT DOYLE.
ALL IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK



DOGS ON BEACHES

See gov.gg/dogsonbeaches for up-to-date information.



THE ALDERNEY LITERARY FESTIVAL

Each year, the Alderney Literary Trust holds the Alderney Literary Festival of Historical Literature, having as its consistent theme the convergence of historical fact and literary fiction. This year, the theme is 'Journeys', and promises to offer something for any reader who has a passion for history.

The Alderney Literary Festival is a boutique literary festival, kept deliberately small to create a 'salon' feel and encourage interaction between authors and audience.

The Festival takes place over a long weekend every March in the historic Island Hall, Alderney's seat of government, built in 1763. Audiences are kept small to create an intimate and friendly feel to the 'salon' style gathering of historians, biographers, novelists and fans of historical fiction and non-fiction. In 2017, a special speaker slot – the

Festival's Debut Novelist – was inaugurated, inviting a new author that the Trust believes is one to watch for the future.

History is explored through biographies, thrillers and crime stories, the fantastical and the supernatural, romance, adventure, warfare and political analysis. Guest authors bring fresh insights to old events, reinterpreting them in the light of new evidence and making history relevant to the present time.

2024 FESTIVAL THEME: 'JOURNEYS'

Why are journeys important and why do people go on them? Some are journeys of discovery, exploration and conquest; others are journeys of faith. Some journeys are for survival: to escape war, for freedom, to find a better life. All journeys tell something

about the human condition: about who we are, how we got here, and where we are going.

FESTIVAL AUTHORS

As the reputation of the Alderney Literary Festival has grown among both festival-goers and authors, more top names in historical literature – both fact and fiction – have been attracted to attend. Authors such as Lucinda Hawksley, the great-great-great-granddaughter of Charles Dickens, whose book Dickens and Travel looks into the journeys made by the author; Gail Simmons, whose walk along the Old Way Between the Chalk and the Sea reveals the rich natural and cultural heritage found on our doorstep; and best-selling historical thriller writer, S. J. Parris, and award-winning crime writer, Vaseem Khan, are just a few of the excellent speakers in this year's line-up.



'THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW.
THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO.'

INSPIRING A LOVE OF WORDS

The Alderney Literary Trust is a charitable trust founded in 2013 on Alderney to encourage the appreciation of literature and promote critical literacy.

The Trust aims to:

- encourage the enjoyment of reading and writing for pleasure through a variety of literary

events such as creative writing courses and guest author appearances;

- promote an appreciation of different literary genres and writing styles, and how language shapes and transforms our understanding of what we read;
- inspire readers to develop a

deeper awareness of history and its relevance through an annual festival of historical literature.

The Alderney Literary Trust is sponsored by Ravenscroft, and the Literary Festival (March 22-24) is sponsored by Polygon Collective. Further details and tickets: alderneyliterarytrust.com/festival.



ESCAPE TO ALDERNEY

Nestled on the edge of pristine white sands just steps from the bay's turquoise waters, Braye Beach Hotel in Alderney promises uncompromising luxury and abundant natural beauty. This is an escape where time stands still; enjoy stunning views over the bay from the popular sun terrace, spot local wildlife on the fly, or simply rest and recharge in comfort while soaking up island life.

Braye Beach Hotel is renowned for offering one of the most luxurious stays on the Alderney island thanks to its 4-star status and warm hospitality. Whatever the reason for your stay, and whenever you choose to visit us, a warm Alderney welcome awaits.

Braye Beach Hotel

Braye Street, Alderney

01481 824 300

brayebeach@handpicked.co.uk

handpickedhotels.co.uk/brayebeach

BRAYE BEACH
HOTEL
ALDERNEY

*Hand*PICKED
HOTELS



THE WOMBLES OF ALDERNEY

Womble sculptures will be unveiled in March on Alderney to celebrate the life of the creator of the Wombles, Elisabeth Beresford, who made the island her home for more than 30 years.

The fictional pointy-nosed, furry creatures who live underground on Wimbledon Common burrowed their way into millions of hearts worldwide in the 1970s, and their dedication to recycling human rubbish was years ahead of its time.

The four-feet high Womble sculptures have been hand-carved with a chainsaw by Manchester-based artist Mike Burgess and organised by the Guernsey Lions Club following the success of their 'Wind in the Willows trail' around Les Vardes Quarry nature walk in Guernsey, which was part of a children's mental wellbeing initiative. Mr Burgess was also responsible for the Wind in the Willows characters.

Islanders and visitors can follow the Alderney Womble trail and learn about the very relevant Womble motto 'Make Good Use of Bad Rubbish'.

Madame Cholet (at the harbour), Great Uncle Bulgaria (at the airport) and Tobermory (at the lighthouse) are joined by a blonde hedgehog reading a Womble book at the start of the community woodland trail.

In addition, a children's 'whisper seat', will be placed at the Butes playground where children can sit and put their arm around Orinoco on one side or a large lions head (representing Guernsey Lions Club) on the other, and then whisper all their thoughts.

THE WOMBLES

Born into a family with many literary connections, Elisabeth Beresford was an author and worked as a journalist. She created the Wombles in 1968 after her daughter Kate sparked inspiration when she mispronounced Wimbledon Common during a Boxing Day stroll. 'Ma, isn't it great on Wombledon Common?' On getting home, Elisabeth wrote down the idea and started developing the characters and book storylines. She developed most of the Womble characters around

members of her family and named some after places the family had associations with, including one called 'Alderney' where they had been holidaying since the early 1960s.

Alderney was Madame Cholet's assistant. A precocious young Womble with a slight disregard for the rules!

The loveable eco-friendly Womble book characters reached a wider audience in the 1970s after a children's highly successful TV show was launched using stop-motion animation. A number of spin-off novelty songs, performed by 'The Wombles' pop group, also became huge chart-topping hits.

Elisabeth moved permanently to Alderney in 1978, when Womble fever was gripping the world, with her husband, broadcaster Max Robertson, and children. She completely immersed herself in the island community and was a much-loved character, often reading her stories to the island children. Between 1991 and 1994 she served as a States Member of Alderney and took a particular interest in children's education.

As well as writing more than 20 Womble books, Elisabeth wrote a variety of other adventure and mystery books for children, many based on Alderney. She was awarded an MBE for her services to children's literature in 1998.

Elisabeth died on 24 December 2010 aged 84 and her ashes are interred in Alderney's St Anne's Church graveyard.

Elisabeth's original Womble soft toys were donated by her family to the Alderney branch of Cancer Research UK and are now on display at the Alderney Museum. A Blue Plaque also celebrates the house where Elisabeth lived in Little Street.

Thanks to Guernsey Lions Club and other sponsors, including The Blonde Hedgehog, Alderney Shipping, Blanchard and Ravenscroft, the Murchie family, and to States of Alderney representative Steve Roberts and States Works, plus Ferryspeed.

Find out more at visitalderney.com



THE GREAT BRITISH BREAKFAST WITH A TWIST

ADVERTORIAL

Amanda Eulenkamp and colleagues headed to Good Rebel for a hearty breakfast before a busy day. They dived into the signature dish of chorizo, romesco and poached eggs...

Bacon. Eggs. Tomato. Toast. Familiar ingredients for a Great British breakfast. But at Good Rebel, they like to do things a little differently, switching up the bacon for chorizo, the tomato for a tangy romesco sauce and the toast for a superb slice of sourdough.

The result is mouth-wateringly delicious and just what's needed to set you up for the day.

Fellow writer Olivia, photographer Peter and I met early one morning, looking forward to the food tasting with gusto. After we ordered our drinks (breakfast tea for Olivia, an Americano for Peter and a decaf cappuccino for me), we settled down while we waited for our food.

If you've been to Good Rebel before then you'll know that it's a

buzzing venue during the day, a popular place for work meetings and a magnet for families and friends to gather. Its industrial vibe brings a taste of the city to Guernsey, and it has a fantastic, welcoming atmosphere.

When our drinks came (piping hot and delivered with a smile), we sipped them with relish. That first drink of the day is always welcome (even when you drink decaf like me!). I like the fact that Good Rebel has water glasses and fresh water on the table without having to ask. It's little touches like this that distinguish the good from the indifferent.

When our food came, I think we were all salivating at the two perfectly poached eggs atop the romesco sauce covered sourdough with chunky slices of chorizo. For those unfamiliar with romesco sauce, it is a piquant sauce of red peppers, nuts, garlic and olive oil, thickened with breadcrumbs, that originated in

Valls, in the province of Tarragona, in Catalonia, Spain. Originally, fishermen made the sauce to be eaten with fish but it makes a delectable accompaniment to chorizo and eggs.

We devoured our dishes, not quite licking the plates clean however tempting that may have been! Replete, we chatted to a few people we knew on the way out (this is Guernsey, after all), and went about the rest of our day satisfied and well-fed.

Our verdict? Definitely a great place to meet for breakfast with an exciting menu that caters for all.

WHAT OLIVIA SAYS...

Breakfast. The most important meal of the day and in this case it was certainly the most delicious. Good Rebel's signature dish, chorizo, romesco and poached eggs made for a mouth-watering breakfast.

We started our breakfast with drinks. I opted for a breakfast tea to drink while we sat and waited



FOOD IMAGES ©PETER FRANKLAND
RESTAURANT IMAGES ©SOPHIE RABEY

for our food. My tea came in a glass teapot with a mini milk bottle alongside, a nice touch ahead of the flavourful breakfast we were about to be served.

Toasted sourdough topped with a romesco sauce, spicy chunks of chorizo and two perfect poached eggs make up this delicious dish. As far as the taste is concerned the flavours are a match made in heaven. If there was such thing as a 'perfect bite,' the flavours of the chorizo, romesco, eggs and sourdough would be it! I have had breakfast at Good Rebel many times before but had never tried their signature dish. Now having tried it (and loved it) I wish I had sooner! It could definitely be my new favourite item on their menu.

The popular venue for people working in nearby offices had a really welcoming atmosphere as workers and families came in for a delicious breakfast. Breakfast at Good Rebel was a great start to a busy day.

OPENING TIMES:

MONDAY - THURSDAY

Breakfast 07:30 - 11:30

Lunch 12:00 - 15:00

Cake, Coffee & Bar

15:00 - 16:00

Closes 16:00

FRIDAY

Breakfast 07:30 - 11:30

Lunch 12:00 - 15:00

Dinner 17:00 - 20:00

Bar open all day

SATURDAY

Brunch 08:00 - 15:00

Cake, Coffee & Bar

15:00 - 16:30

Closes 16:30

SUNDAY

Brunch 09:00 - 15:00

Cake, Coffee & Bar

15:00 - 16:30

Closes 16:30





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WHAT'S ON IN THE BAILIWICK?

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Until 17 March 2024 BAILIWICK WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Running from 10am - 4pm, in The Greenhouse Gallery at Candie Museum, alongside the Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition.

March – September AUTISM GUERNSEY TEDDY BEAR

Follow the trail to find 60 cuddly teddy bears wearing personalised jumpers which will be displayed in windows around Guernsey. There will be app and quiz competitions for all ages to enjoy.

15 & 16 March MICHAEL STARRING BEN

Take a journey back in time to remember Michael Jackson – the man, the music and the magic. Beau Sejour. See tickets.gg

22 – 24 March THE ALDERNEY LITERARY FESTIVAL

The Channel Islands' boutique literary festival. See pages 16-17 for further information.

29 March – 1 April EY EASTER RUNNING FESTIVAL

The festival includes a 5km road race, 4.75-mile full cross country, 4 x 1 mile relay race and 10km road race. A three-day junior Easter running festival (including a beach run, cross country and a relay race) will take place in conjunction with the main one. See visitguernsey.com

COMING UP: 14 April THE SURE GUERNSEY MARATHON 2024

21 – 27 April WORLD BOWLS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

23 April – 5 May GUERNSEY LITERARY FESTIVAL



GUERNSEY MARATHON ©GUERNSEY PRESS



Wildlife Photographer of the Year

26 January - 7 April 2024

Guernsey Museum at Candie, Candie Gardens, St Peter Port

Open daily 10am - 4pm / FREE entry with a discovery pass

www.museums.gov.gg

WHAT'S ON
ELSEWHERE?FLY TO **LIVERPOOL**

Until 15 February 2025

**JOURNEYS THROUGH
THE TATE COLLECTION**

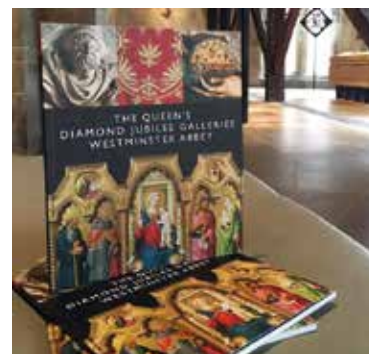
This display of art from the Tate collection considers the impact of the global movement of people on artists and art movements throughout the 20th century and beyond. On display are works that explore themes of migration, colonialism, and international exchange, and how they are relevant to the history of Liverpool.

Further information at tate.org.uk/visit/tate-liverpool/display/journeys-through-tate-collection

is limited, so admission is by timed ticket. A ticket for general admission to Westminster Abbey is also required.

The new exhibition and gallery is home to more than 300 objects from Westminster Abbey's treasured collection, which traces its 1,000-history through four themes: Building Westminster Abbey, Worship and Daily Life, Westminster Abbey and the Monarchy, and The Abbey and National Memory.

Further information and tickets at: westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/plan-your-visit/the-queens-diamond-jubilee-galleries



10 – 18 February

**HALF TERM HISTORY
MAKERS AT AUDLEY END**

Join characters from the past for historical hijinks and hands-on shenanigans at Audley End over half-term. Meet the resident archaeologists and explore the Roman period through ancient finds.

Ideal for families, Audley End is owned by English Heritage. Its gardens were designed by Capability Brown. A mere 14 miles from Stansted Airport, Audley End offers something for all culture vultures.

english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/audley-end-house-and-gardens

16 – 20 February

LONDON FASHION WEEK

Check out the new Autumn/Winter collections. This major international event brings together some of the world's most renowned fashion designers and editors.

FLY TO **GATWICK, STANSTED
OR LONDON CITY**

Until 31 December 2024

**THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND
JUBILEE GALLERIES**

Be one of the first to step inside The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries in Westminster Abbey, as the once-hidden space opens to the public for the very first time.

Located high above the world-famous abbey in the medieval triforium, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries offer spectacular views of the church and the Houses of Parliament. Please note, the Galleries are in a medieval space where room





THE ISLAND'S FINEST DINING AT THE OGH

Enjoy a taste of luxury in the heart of St Peter Port with a range of experiences at The Old Government House Hotel. From breakfast and weekend brunch served in the Brasserie, afternoon tea served in our cosy lounge with an open fire to dinner in the Brasserie or our Governor's Curry Room where we serve Indian cuisine, with South African inspiration.

With magnificent sea views, The OGH is family and pet friendly, offers an extensive wine list and cocktail menu as well as dishes created using a wide variety of local produce.

We look forward to welcoming you.

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THE OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE
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CHINESE NEW YEAR – THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED IN ASIAN COUNTRIES. GUERNSEY RESIDENT AND FENG SHUI CONSULTANT DR TANYA HAMES GUIDES US THROUGH THE CELEBRATIONS.

2024

YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Also known as the 15 Day Festival as the 15th day marks the first full moon after the Spring Festival, the Lunar New Moon is celebrated not only in Asian countries but also around the world by other internationally-minded individuals.

The Lunar New Year goes hand-in-hand with the Chinese Zodiac, with a new Chinese Zodiac animal named each year. 2023 was the Year of the Water Rabbit, while on 10 February 2024, we welcome the Year of the Wood Dragon. The year will end on 28 January 2025.

SO, HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME, YOU MAY ASK?

Every individual has a unique BaZi chart which documents the type of Chi energy – known as Heaven Luck – around at their time of birth. How your unique Chi energy interacts with the energy of the Wood Dragon will determine how fruitful your year will be. Understanding the Chi energy will help you make informed choices and shape your destiny.

This year is going to be memorable and auspicious as the Dragon symbolises good luck, strength and health, and is one of the most important animal signs in the Chinese Zodiac, alongside

the Rabbit. Furthermore, according to Chinese astrology, there are a total of nine time periods, each of 20 years' duration, making up the 180-year Great Cycle. Each cycle comprises a different type of Chi energy.

Significantly, on 10 February, we leave behind the last 20-year cycle, Period 8, which was characterised by earth energy. This cycle provided stable and solid energy, giving rise to the predominance of traditional business activities. However, this will change as Period 9 will be much less traditional than Period 8, with the lively fire element predominant.

Period 9 will be a time of innovation, new technology, new and less conventional types of business, as well as more focus on metaphysics. It is a time of marketing, branding and promotional activities.

There will be huge opportunities for women. No one alive today has ever experienced the energy of this period in their lifetime, so it is a very exciting time in which individuals can experience different energy, leave behind the past and start afresh with new purpose. It is important to lay good foundations at the outset of this 20-year cycle.

Opportunities will come fast and must be grasped quickly. Learn as you go along. Don't hesitate. Take chances. Seize the moment!

HOW DO PEOPLE WELCOME THE CHINESE NEW YEAR?

Be ready to welcome not only the Year of the Wood Dragon but also the new Chi energy for Period 9 and the next 20 years.

Typically, people who celebrate Chinese New Year:

- Get rid of any clutter, broken items and old clothes before 10 February. Prepare to say goodbye to old, stagnant energy and create space for new opportunities.
- Spring clean their home from top to bottom. After they have finished, they can wipe down everything with salt water to rid their house of negative energy. Use a good quality sea or Himalayan salt. Be sure to finish by 10 February. And do not clean at all for the full 15 days of Chinese New Year as new opportunities may be swept away.
- Buy new clothes and wear them every day during Chinese New Year. Red and gold are auspicious colours symbolising health, wealth and prosperity.



ABOVE LEFT: CHINESE NEW YEAR TRADITIONAL CHARACTER 'FU' ©ISTOCKPHOTO. ABOVE: DR TANYA HAMES.

- Keep a positive attitude at all times. Do not think negative thoughts nor say negative things.
- Decorate their home with beautiful red lanterns to drive away bad luck, watch fireworks and try to attend a lion dance in the local area to promote peace and reconciliation for the New Year.
- Decorate using paper cuttings of good fortune imagery, for example, rabbit figurines, dragons, gold ingots, mandarin oranges, chrysanthemum flowers, peaches, phoenixes and so on.
- Pay tribute to ancestors and departed loved ones.
- Fill their home with beautiful fresh flowers, plants and fruit.
- Use orange trees as they are good luck and symbolise an abundant and prosperous year.
- Use orchids to lift the energy of the room. Use deep purple to symbolise wealth and abundance.
- Display lucky bamboo plants which signify good luck, fortune and prosperity.
- Place plants that have leaves in the shape of coins around

their home. Try the money plant (pilea) or jade plants. The anthurium plant has bright red leaves and is a symbol of good fortune and prosperity.

- Use peace lilies to keep the air clean as they have healing properties (NASA endorses this plant).
- Place nine oranges or nine lemons in a bowl to signify wealth and abundance.
- Give out Hong bao (red packets or envelopes) filled with money to symbolize good wishes and luck for the new year ahead. Putting a gift of money in the red Hong bao packets and sealing it represents sealing a symbol of prosperity within the symbol of life.

You can put any amount in depending on your circumstances – acceptable amounts are two, six or eight new and clean bills. However, avoid four at all costs, it is the homonym of death.

- Enjoy traditional dances and music.
- Feast on a whole range of 'lucky' foods. Dumplings resemble the Yuanbo or gold ingot and symbolise wealth and prosperity.

Fish (or Yu in Chinese, which has the same pronunciation as the word for abundance, Zhu) symbolises surplus and fortune.

Noodles denote longevity and a long life while oranges and tangerines symbolise goodness and gold. Glutinous rice balls made from stick rice flour with a black sesame filling are eaten at family reunions while glutinous rice cake – sweet or salty – steamed, boiled or fried, symbolises increasing prosperity year after year.

DR TANYA HAMES

Dr Hames is a fully qualified Feng Shui consultant and is registered with the International Feng Shui Guild (the only person in the Channel Islands).

She is not only a member of the Guild but has taken additional testing and achieved 'Red Ribbon' status.

She lives in Guernsey from where she runs a Feng Shui and lifestyle company perfectsanctuary.org.



ABOVE: THE 12 SIGNS OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC ©ISTOCKPHOTO.
ABOVE RIGHT: THE SIX NEW GUERNSEY POST CHINESE NEW YEARSTAMPS.

OTHER SIGNS' RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WOOD DRAGON

The Dragon's secret friend is the Rooster but it also has good relationships with the Rat and the Monkey, so these signs may have good relationship luck this year.

However, some signs get on less well with the Dragon, especially the Dog which is in opposition to the Dragon. The Dog may have more relationship challenges this year and must be ready to deal with misunderstandings. If you are born in October which is the Dog month, you may be affected by career challenges. The Rabbit could also experience challenging moments, including betrayal.

With regards to relationships, the Ox and the Goat will enjoy Nobleman's luck this year, which shows that they will receive useful help and advice in this area. The Rat and Monkey will be extremely popular, both socially and in their relationships.

The Snake will have excellent wealth luck, so make the most of opportunities. The Pig will have windfall luck and the Goat will do well in all business-related activities. The Dog should keep a low profile in business, career, wealth and in general. The Dog and the Rooster should protect themselves against risky investments.

The Rat (Zi)

The Rat will do very well in social circles this year. Make the most of your popularity. The fact they have such good communications with the Dragon can be used to their advantage. This is the time for Rats to make a bold move as they will have power, courage, leadership and influence.

The Ox (Chou)

Oxes will experience Nobleman Luck this year, so they can expect plenty of help, guidance and support. Make the most of your year! Attempt to connect with others, socialise and mingle at key social events. Attend every social event possible as you will be in an environment where you can enhance your status. You may gain important social status this year.

The Tiger (Yin)

Overall luck will be an improvement on 2023. The Tiger will be very busy with an auspicious Sky Horse sign in their chart. This will be beneficial in career matters. Take advantage of this star if you work in sales or are an influencer.

The Rabbit (Mao)

It could be a challenging year for Rabbits, due to the negative influence of the Dragon. Avoid South East 1, North West 1, and West in the home or office.

The Dragon (Chen)

Although this is the Dragon's year, it

does not mean it will necessarily be good for the Dragon. Your year can sometimes be a year of obstacles and setbacks to provide challenge. Stay strong and face obstacles head on. Focus on your creative and artistic talents. Work on beautifying your surroundings. Use your unique skills to their best advantage.

The Snake (Si)

The Snake is one of the few animals with overall excellent luck in 2024. The Tai Yang Star will positively affect their career, wealth and business, enabling growth and success.

The Horse (Wu)

The Horse will experience average luck this year. Tread carefully, be steady and do not aim too high. There will be a feeling of instability, but those in education or related activities will experience some advantages.

The Goat/Sheep (Wei)

This will be a good year for the Goat. Goats will experience the influence of the Nobleman's Star on their sign, so they will get plenty of help, support and protection. Make the most of tips and connections in this positive year.

The Monkey (Shen)

The Monkey's overall relationship luck will improve this year. This is a year where the Monkey can tap into their resourcefulness and learn, improve and upgrade themselves. This is a friendly year and they



should be open and engaging with others. Be sure to develop business connections. Attend conferences and events and make the most of networking.

The Rooster (You)

Roosters will experience the Peach Blossom Star in 2024, which will mean they will be more romantic, passionate and charming. It's a good year for single Roosters to look for love. They will have a good year of creativity, optimism with an interest in their looks, art and love. Other animals will be friendly to them so they can leverage this advantage to suit their objectives.

The Dog (Hsu)

There is a clash for Dogs this year. There may be emotional issues and personal disputes through 2024. There may be changes. Accept them and adapt. Embrace the change. They may find themselves switching careers, moving house or travelling frequently.

The Pig (Hai)

The Pig may experience good luck in 2024. They have various auspicious stars which will help them enhance their wealth, luck and career. They should take advantage of calling in help from people with authority and status. This may be a great year for those in research, education, writing and students too.

GUERNSEY CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH YEAR OF THE DRAGON STAMPS

Guernsey Post has released its 11th set in its Chinese New Year series to celebrate the Year of the Dragon. The stamps have been designed by Chrissy Lau, who has worked on the entire series.

The stamp set includes a souvenir sheet depicting a dragon whose body is filled with a scroll pattern and chrysanthemums to reflect vitality and happiness. It also wears a lucky longevity knot.

'Since our series began in 2014, we have been delighted to celebrate Chinese New Year with our vibrant stamps,' said Bridget Yabsley, head of philatelic at Guernsey Post. 'In China, colours feature symbolically in ceremonies, festivals and rituals; Chrissy has carried this through to the stamp designs, which feature red to represent good fortune and joy, whilst gold symbolises wealth, prosperity and happiness.'

THE STAMPS

The Chinese symbol for dragon appears on the top left of each of the six stamps, which comprise:

Lucky Number Eight Dragon

(Guernsey letter): the dragon and the number eight represent good

fortune in Chinese culture.

The dragon's body is covered in a fiery flame pattern with which it is synonymous.

Fiery Dragon (Guernsey large letter): this dragon is adorned with a peony pattern to symbolise wealth and prosperity.

Lucky Lantern Dragon (UK letter): the dragon holds a lantern with the 'Fu' symbol, symbolising good fortune. It is decorated with a scroll pattern inspired by Emperors' robes.

Auspicious Dragon (Europe letter): the dragon is flying among the full moon adorned with an auspicious cloud pattern.

Mother Dragon (UK large letter): this dragon fiercely protects her baby, adorned with plum blossom patterns symbolising resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Lucky 88 Dragons (Rest of world letter): These dragons represent wealth and good fortune and are adorned with a scroll pattern inspired by Chinese ceramics.

For full information and to order see [guernseystamps.com](https://www.guernseystamps.com)



CHING DYNASTY

Ching-He Huang MBE is the undisputed queen of British Chinese cookery, with her accessible yet delicious recipes coupled with her warm persona gaining her countless fans.

Born in Taiwan and raised in South Africa and the UK, food has enabled Ching to maintain a vital connection to her Chinese heritage. She's known for her 'minimum fuss, maximum flavour' ethos and advocates using the freshest and best quality ingredients possible to create modern dishes which fuse tradition and innovation, all with her signature 'Ching Spin'.

Ching has appeared on numerous primetime TV shows and has written 10 bestselling cookbooks... and counting (her latest, 'Wok For Less' was published in January). She was on the island in October under the auspices of the financial inclusion charity, Guernsey Community Savings, hosting a five-course fundraising gala dinner at local restaurant, China Red. Eddie Sum (who owns China Red) and Ching have been friends for more than 20 years.

The day before the dinner, Ching held a 'cooking on a budget' demonstration for the Guernsey College of Further Education hospitality and catering students.

To celebrate Lunar New Year, Astrid Mitchison caught up with Ching.

What are your earliest food memories?

My earliest food memories are from my grandmother in Southern Taiwan. Living on her farm, I would watch her harvest veggies, wok on her large wood fired stove, and wrap hundreds of Zong Zi dumplings for the family. It was her language of love, and has become my biggest inspiration.

What was your most memorable meal?

The most memorable meals consist of family around the table, sharing good food accompanied by laughter. I am lucky to have family based around Asia and the treat is to see them and enjoy a meal together, especially after Covid.

What was your biggest food disaster?

When I was starting out in cooking, I road tested a recipe on my boyfriend. I made a batch of wonton dumplings but instead of a clove of garlic, I accidentally put in a whole bulb! It was rather pungent! Luckily, my boyfriend is now my husband!

Which five ingredients do you always have in your kitchen?

Shaoxing rice wine, naturally

brewed soy sauce, veggie bouillon powder, dried shiitake mushrooms, good quality sesame oil, rice vinegar... I think that's more than five!

What are your three must-have items of kitchen equipment?

A carbon steel wok that you season, a chopping board and a good cleaver is all you need for Asian cookery. A good rice cooker comes in handy, too.

What's the most 'unusual' food that you've eaten? Did you like it?

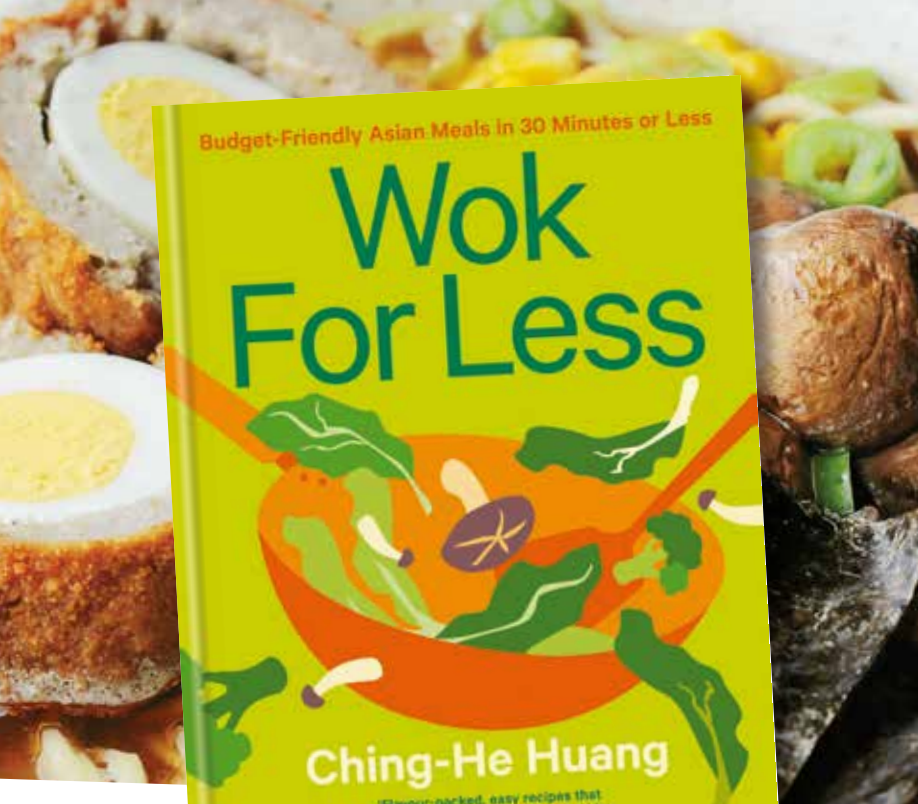
I'm not a fan of insects. I did try water cockroaches once and never again... including squid sperm sacs scrambled with eggs and garlic chives- that was interesting!

What is your ultimate comfort food?

Comfort foods depend on my mood but I could eat a hot steaming bowl of freshly made fish ball noodle soup any day of the week. I have a great recipe in my new book, 'Wok for Less'.

What's your go-to mid-week, quick meal?

Usually a steaming bowl of noodles... with a ginger and fresh tomato base, mushrooms with spring onions, tofu and bits I need to use up in the fridge. I hate waste so it's got to be quick, fresh and flavourful, but nourishing too.



How do you find inspiration for your delicious recipes?

I love to travel in Asia, trying as many delicious foods as possible. I'm always inspired by the ingenuity and creativity of Eastern chefs... the array of diverse flavours on offer is truly astounding!

What has been your proudest career moment, to date?

It was a huge honour and a very humbling moment to be granted an MBE Honours for services to the culinary arts by our late HRH Queen Elizabeth II in 2020 and presented by HRH Princess Royal Anne in 2021. I love Britain, the country and its people have been so kind to me.

Who, dead or alive, would you invite to your dream dinner party?

My husband, Jamie, and I love films. I would love to invite Chow Yun Fat (Hong Kong star of 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon'), we are huge fans of his. So Chow, if you are reading this, please get in touch, we have a script for you!

What are your Lunar New Year traditions?

Lunar New Year is a reflective time. It's about family, welcoming in new luck and energy, saying goodbye to any negativity and start afresh. This ethos is a celebration for all. My family usually have a

potluck (we all cook something and share it) or hotpot, it differs every year depending on who is doing the cooking – traditionally my father-in-law takes the reins and we all help out.

What special celebratory foods do you recommend for people wanting to recreate a New Year feast at home?

Serve foods that symbolise happiness, luck and wealth... noodles for longevity, prawns for happiness, fish for abundance, vegetables for prosperity, dumplings for wealth and chicken for power (should you so wish).

Any other tips?

Cook simply with fresh, wholesome ingredients that not only deliver on taste but nutrition too. This is the Eastern ethos... whether celebrating at Lunar New Year or not, enjoy a healthy balanced diet. Let food be your medicine, or medicine will become your food. The old sages were the wisest with their advice!

Ching's top 3 Guernsey spots

China Red
The Little Chapel
Fermain Valley

Ching's vegan masterclass can be found at chinghehuang.com. Follow Ching @chinghehuang.



LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO CELEBRATE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR? CHECK OUT THESE LOCATIONS

LONDON

The Chinese New Year parade starts at 10am Sunday 11 February, beginning with colourful parade floats and dragon dances from Duncannon Street, then heading up Charing Cross Road and down Shaftesbury Avenue, dispersing on Rupert Street. Between 12pm and 6pm, Trafalgar Square will have stage performances.

Find stalls on Gerrard Place and Newport Court in Chinatown, as well as lion dancing and plenty of places to stop off for a Chinese New Year feast.

MANCHESTER

Manchester's Chinatown is the second largest in the UK, so you're guaranteed a wide choice of quality restaurants, bakeries and shops. The annual Chinese New Year festival, including stalls and dancing Dragons in the famous parade, is a highlight in the Manchester events calendar.

BIRMINGHAM

The Chinese Quarter in Birmingham bridges the gap between Grand Central Station and Gay Village. It is overflowing with restaurants, shops and venues, is visually stunning, and offers a unique and vibrant vibe.

LIVERPOOL

Explore one of Europe's oldest and largest Chinese communities at Liverpool's Chinatown. It's hard to miss at the top of Duke Street, as you are greeted with a traditional Chinese arch that was imported from Shanghai and constructed by expert Chinese craftsmen.

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POUNDS, SHILLINGS AND PENCE

IF YOU'RE READING THIS ON THE WAY TO THE ISLAND FOR YOUR FIRST TRIP, YOU MAY BE AMAZED TO DISCOVER THAT GUERNSEY STILL HAS POUND NOTES. WITH AN ECLECTIC MIX OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH CURRENCY IN ITS HERITAGE, AMANDA EULENKAMP DISCOVERS THE HISTORY OF GUERNSEY'S MONEY

To understand the history of the currency of Guernsey is to understand the island's history. Guernsey and the Channel Islands are remnants of the Duchy of Normandy to which the Kings of England (formerly the Dukes of Normandy) held on.

With this heritage, it is no wonder that French coinage played a part in its currency history. Indeed, for centuries, Guernsey money was literally a mixed bag of coins, including French, its own *livre tournois* and sterling.

Since the 1300s, sterling has been legal tender in the Bailiwick, and Guernsey issues its own pound (GGP) notes and coins. Local copper coinage began in 1830, when the island introduced its own currency, the double, to run alongside the French *livre*. The doubles were a series of copper coins, established at 80 doubles to each French franc.

Four years after introducing the double, the French *livre* was

dropped (it had been abandoned by France in 1795), and doubles and francs were in circulation for the next 100 years, running side-by-side.

Indeed, The Star newspaper on 1 October 1892 observed:

'There is one place in the British Isles, says Modern Society, where the currency is not British, and that is Guernsey. Here you will see a heterogeneous mixture of French, Belgian, Italian, Swiss, Greek, Spanish, Roumanian, Peruvian, Chilian, and other coins of every denomination and nationality. I must say that the people are very honest, and give you twenty-five francs for your sovereigns: but if you forget to change these francs back again into shillings while you are on the island, you will find when you get to England that many, if not most of them, are obsolete, and will not pass in any country on the face of the earth; least of all the one they nominally hail from! What advantage the islanders gain

by using this galimatias passes my comprehension, but with their usual apathy they grumble and put up with it. Beyond an occasional growl from someone who has been victimised, or a leading article now and again in a local paper, no one moves in the matter. It is disgraceful that British currency should not be used in a British dependency at our very doors. Jersey has adopted it for many years; of course, still retaining a distinctive copper coinage. Perhaps if a paternal government were to put a little gentle pressure on the Guernsey States, it might induce that body to follow the lead of the sister island.'

Eventually, the pound sterling became the exclusive legal tender on Guernsey in 1921. The Germans issued currency for Guernsey during their occupation of the island between 1940 and 1945.

Guernsey issues its own sterling notes and coins as the legal tender of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, which is readily accepted throughout



ABOVE LEFT: A RANGE OF GUERNSEY COINS FROM 1830 TO THE PRESENT ©SHUTTERSTOCK.
ABOVE: THE PRIAULX LIBRARY.



**‘THERE IS ONE PLACE
IN THE BRITISH ISLES,
SAYS MODERN SOCIETY,
WHERE THE CURRENCY
IS NOT BRITISH, AND
THAT IS GUERNSEY.’**

the Channel Islands but not usually beyond its shores. The circulation of Guernsey notes and coins is approximately £54m. The Bailiwick’s notes are produced by De La Rue, a specialist commercial security printing firm founded by Guernsey entrepreneur Thomas De La Rue.

On 4 July 2013 commemorative Guernsey £1 notes was issued to mark the 200th anniversary of Thomas De La Rue’s first commercial venture.

In 2023, security threads and stripes were added to Guernsey’s £20, £10 and £5 notes, although there was no change to the pound notes.

The note imagery did not change and continues to depict Queen Elizabeth II, although discussions have taken place on the introduction of new imagery. The Bank of England will be issuing UK banknotes featuring King Charles III from 2024.

WHO’S ON THE £1 NOTE

Daniel de Lisle Brock served as Bailiff of Guernsey from 1762 – 1842, when he died in office. He was known as a defender of islanders’ rights, including fighting for islanders to be tried in Guernsey courts.

He was also involved in the States issuing its own bank notes rather than borrowing monies in the wake of the Napoleonic wars when debt and rising prices were prevalent. Part of the project, The Guernsey Experiment, which he instigated, involved raising funds to build the Town Market.

is across the top. A large value numeral is on an acanthus and at the bottom right. The written value and promissory clause is centre right above the facsimile signature of the States Treasurer. Serial numbers are top left and bottom right.



BACK

The title ‘The States of Guernsey’ is on the left, above a large value numeral, both superimposed over a large Guernsey lily. The second value numeral is in a box, top right. A portrait of Daniel De Lisle Brock is shown to the right of the Royal Court House in 1840. The Brock coat of arms is to the right of the portrait. A portrait caption at bottom right reads ‘Daniel De Lisle Brock Bailiff of Guernsey 1762-1842’ and above the caption is a Bailiff’s hat. The background shows a repeated Guernsey lily motif and the figure ‘1’ in medallion technique.

Sources: Priaulx Library; Guernsey Stamps.



FRONT

The seal of the Bailiwick is surrounded by a laurel wreath and is to the left of a vignette depicting Market Square circa 1830. An acanthus ornament and geometric lathe pattern is above. The background shows a repeated Guernsey lily motif. The title ‘The States of Guernsey’

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ABOVE L-R: LIHOU CAUSEWAY;
REMAINS OF LIHOU PRIORY; THE VENUS POOL.

LIHOU – AN ISLAND OF WILDLIFE AND FREEDOM

Antonia Rainbow and her family always enjoy a visit to Lihou as it's a great adventure for kids (and it's free!), from the causeway to get to this small uninhabited island, through to the amazing rock climbing and sense of freedom that you feel.

The causeway to get to Lihou is only open during very low tide so be sure to check out the causeway opening times before planning your trip at gov.gg/lihou.

LOCATION

The causeway to Lihou is on the L'Eree Headland on Guernsey's West Coast, and is signposted off Les Sablons coast road. Follow the winding road all the way to the end where you'll come to a parking area. Once parked, you need to walk down the slipway which leads to the causeway.

THE CAUSEWAY

The causeway changes from cobbled stone, to pebbles, back to cobbled stone etc and in places the water is deep enough to cover your feet. On my first visit I learnt a valuable lesson, wear wellies, water shoes or flip flips, not white canvas shoes!

The walk to Lihou takes us about 20 minutes and my kids love it. The views are beautiful and it is amazing to think the walkway is underwater for most of the day.

LIHOU ISLAND

Lihou is a great place for nature lovers, it's a designated Ramsar wetland site, and is home to more than 200 species of seaweed and 150 species of bird. There is a big poster outside of Lihou House (the only building on the island) showing all of the wildlife to look out for. Due to the importance of wildlife on the island, dogs are not allowed on Lihou.

There is a path that takes you around the island and you can go in either direction. We often head to the left of Lihou House and after only a few minutes on the path you come to the remains of Lihou Priory. It's amazing that anything remains of a priory dating back to the 12th century.

The landscape changes slightly in different parts of the island, with grassy sections, pebbles, small rocky area and a stretch walking through longer plants. The views throughout are beautiful and you get a real sense of freedom.

THE VENUS POOL

The Venus Pool is a hidden gem on Lihou (so much so we completely missed it on our first trip to the island!). It is a large rock pool with crystal clear blue/green water that is isolated from the sea for one and a half hours either side of high water on spring tides and two hours either side of high water on neap

tides. It is a bit of a mission to get down to it as it is at the foot of a large section of rocks which can be very slippery when wet, however, it is stunning and well worth a visit.

THE WALK BACK

You must be aware of the causeway closing times when you're on Lihou so you don't get stranded. The length of time the causeway is open can really vary, from 1hr 30mins some days, to 2hrs 30mins on other days. There is great rock pooling to the sides of the causeway so add time in if that's something you want to do.

Guernsey is a place that gives kids a sense of freedom, however, we thoroughly recommend a trip to Lihou because it takes it to the next level. On Lihou we always have happy kids, chasing each other, knowing that even when we can't see them they are perfectly safe.

Antonia Rainbow is mum to 10-year-old twin girls and has a passion for writing and a real love of Guernsey. She founded Guernsey With Kids to help local families and visitors get the best out of the island. For more information about all of the places listed above visit guernseywithkids.com



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...find time to visit Sark

How easy is it to get to Sark?

The island of Sark is a world apart, but it is much closer than you might imagine.

Fly to Guernsey from London (Gatwick) or other selected UK regional airports, (www.aurigny.com). From Guernsey airport or from wherever you are staying catch a taxi or bus to the Sark ferry quay in St Peter Port, the capital of Guernsey. The ferry takes approx 45 minutes and operates up to 4 or 5 times a day during the summer months (www.sarkshipping.gg) and a little less frequently during the quieter months. It is essential to check ferry sailing times and book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Why stay at Stocks Hotel?

Stocks Hotel is a former farmhouse located in the heart of Sark and offers the perfect base from which to explore every aspect of the island. The hotel was established in 1895 and is Sark's oldest, continuously operating hotel. Stocks was sympathetically refurbished in 2010 and today it offers luxurious, 4-star accommodation with excellent personal service. "Sark Welcome" breaks are recommended throughout the year and if you stay for two nights or longer, Sark sloe gin and Sark chocolates are included upon arrival. For the ultimate in private luxury some guests reserve the whole hotel as a 'house party' for friends and family to enjoy complete privacy combined with first class personal service. Sark house parties are most popular during the Autumn months.

Is it possible to visit Sark for just one day?

If you are staying in Guernsey, a day visit to Sark is a 'must do'. Catch the ferry and book a horse & carriage (+44 (0)1481 832001) to visit La Seigneurie gardens and La Coupée.

Enjoy lunch in any one of a number cafes, restaurants or tea gardens, followed by a stroll along the Avenue to browse the gift shops before returning to the harbour.

What can I do in Sark?

The joy of Sark is that you can be as busy as you want to be. Although it measures just three miles by one-and-a-half, Sark has a myriad of leafy lanes, footpaths, and cliff walks, making it an unspoiled paradise for those who enjoy nature at its best. There are pebbly beaches, sheltered coves and caves by the score to explore. Walking is the most popular pastime. Most visitors come to relax, refresh, and unwind, and admire the spectacular views. For the more adventurous, you can reserve a coasteering or kayaking excursion (www.adventuresark.gg) or visit the Sark Observatory after dark.

How can I book?

Without doubt the easiest and best value way to book is directly via the Stocks Hotel website (www.stockshotel.com) or by telephone (+44 (0)1481 832001) to check room availability and prices. Take advantage of our great value new room rates and exclusive special offers including free ferry travel if you stay for 4 nights or longer, and our 'Sark Welcome' offer including complimentary Sark chocolates and Stocks sloe gin.

LOVE IN THE CITY OF LIGHT

By Amanda Eulenkamp

INTRODUCING THE WRITERS



Astrid Mitchison



Nick Le Poidevin



Jessamy Baldwin



Rupert Diggins

JUST ONE FOR THE ROAD

If you spent the Christmas break and January thinking about holidays, but still need some inspiration before booking, then look no further...

2024 promises to be a fantastic year to spread our wings, with Aurigny having added new destinations not only to an already impressive list of European hot spots but also to the UK route map.

In this, and the following editions of *En Voyage*, we'll be selecting some old favourites and new additions to whet your travel appetite.

Let's start with one of the closest places geographically to Guernsey; Paris. Paris in spring is obviously a thing, and with the new non-stop route from Guernsey starting 1 April, a very do-able thing! Not only is the city itself a wonderful place to explore, but Paris is the starting point for other adventures, not least Disney, European rail travel and onward flight connections. I hope the article

on page 44 inspires you to book your flights and enjoy a Gallic (or further afield) break.

Paris is also a city for lovers. If you're feeling loved-up (or even if you're on your own and want to treat yourself), Astrid Mitchison and I have co-written a piece to whisk you away and embrace your inner romantic. Birmingham? Whitstable? Who'd have thought? Read our suggestions on page 48.

Regular Aurigny flyer, Nick Le Poidevin, is somebody who has really taken advantage of all the non-stop European flights that Aurigny has offered over the last couple of years. Read his interesting travelogue about Valencia (page 54). And travel blogger Rupert Diggins explores new-to-Aurigny-destination La Coruna (or A Coruna). With just one trip offered, 5 – 12 October this year, early booking is advised.

New to the UK route map is Liverpool, and regular contributor

Jessamy Baldwin explores some of the things to see and do in the city in 48 hours (page 54). Longer holidays are allowed! In fact, they'll give you the opportunity to explore Liverpool's excellent shops (pack a spare bag), enjoy a premiership football game (whether you support the reds or blues), indulge in a little horse-racing at Aintree, and take in a concert at one of the many venues (Taylor Swift is playing this summer).

Finally, I take a look at London from a different direction – namely, London airports Stansted and City making a welcome re-appearance on the route map (page 56).

The addition of these new hubs will allow islanders to explore different areas in England and fly to more destinations when travelling onwards, as well as giving UK folk a bigger choice of departing airports to visit Guernsey. Time to get booking!

PARIS – A CITY WITH MORE THAN A LITTLE 'JE NE SAIS QUOI'

Paris in spring sounds idyllic. Now just a short, non-stop flight away from Guernsey, it's no longer just an idea, a plan – it's the real deal. Aurigny will be operating flights from Guernsey twice a week on Mondays and Fridays from the beginning of April. So, Paris in spring... in summer... in autumn. Ooh la la! Time to hop aboard and explore the French capital and beyond, says Amanda Eulenkamp.

For a bird's eye view of Paris, most tourists will no doubt head straight to the world-famous Eiffel Tower. But I would argue that you would do better to take Europe's fastest elevator (a mere 38 seconds) up the Tour Montparnasse. Why? Because, quite simply, you'll get a view of the Eiffel Tower, too!

Opened in 1973, the **Tour Montparnasse** was the first office building to be built in the centre of Paris and was the subject of great controversy because Parisians believed the skyscraper clashed with the rest of the city's architecture.

Luckily for us tourists, the building was completed and now offers unparalleled views of the city by day or night from the windows of the panoramic observation deck. Just a few steps further up lies the roof terrace where you can drink in the sights of the Eiffel Tower, Sacré Coeur, Notre-Dame cathedral, Montmartre et al.

For an exceptional gourmet experience, dine at le Ciel de Paris, the highest panoramic restaurant in Paris, in the Tour Montparnasse itself. I confess I have been fortunate to dine here, albeit many years (decades) ago. However, I don't believe the view

will have changed much and it's an experience that is indelibly fixed in my memory. It goes without saying to book a table near the windows if possible.

There is also the 360 Café, the highest panoramic bar in Europe which is open during visiting hours for sandwiches, salads, and hot and cold drinks. Montparnasse is known for its famous cafes and brasseries where writers, painters and poets gathered at the beginning of the 20th century, and there are plenty of other places to eat at ground level if you prefer.

For tickets, see tourmontparnasse56.com/en

Of course, no visit to Paris is complete without going up the **Eiffel Tower**. As its official website toureiffel.paris/en states, it is 'the only trip to the top of its kind in Europe, one where emotions carry you away'. An iconic building that was constructed between 1887-9 for the 'Exposition Universelle', a World Fair, marking the centenary of the French Revolution.

Designed by Gustave Eiffel, the tower replaced the Washington Monument as the world's tallest structure, a title it was to hold until 1930, when New York's Chrysler Building was completed.

The first floor offers a glass floor experience to enjoy the views below while wondering at the tonnes of iron above.

The second floor gives clear views all round but is also a gastronomic treat (this is Paris, after all) with its one-Michelin star Jules Verne restaurant. The Eiffel Tower is also home to buffet restaurants, a Champagne bar and the Macaron bar where you can indulge in superb sweet treats.

If, by now, you're feeling a little vertiginous, then why not relax and take a slow boat ride on the **River Seine** to get your bearings? A wonderfully relaxing way to see Paris, a cruise on the Seine can be combined with a romantic dinner, a brunch or lunch, Champagne or even an open-topped double-decker bus tour. Bateaux Mouches is probably the best known of the various cruise companies and its website bateaux-mouches.fr/en will give you plenty of ideas for the tour best suited to you.

BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS

While **Notre-Dame** is temporarily closed following the fire in 2019, it is thankfully due to re-open on 8 December 2024, shortly after the end of the Paris Summer Olympics.

THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE... WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1806 AFTER THE VICTORY AT AUSTERLITZ BY EMPEROR NAPOLEON I AT THE PEAK OF HIS POWERS.



Instead, feast your eyes on the **Basilique du Sacré Coeur du Montmartre**. While it is a landmark in the Parisian landscape, welcoming millions of visitors each year, it is first and foremost a church where thousands of visitors come to pray every day.

At the top of the world-famous Champs Élysées is the **Arc de Triomphe**, one of the most famous symbols of Paris. It was commissioned in 1806 after the victory at Austerlitz by Emperor Napoleon I at the peak of his powers. The monument stands over 51 metres (165 feet) in height and is 45 metres wide. Its design was inspired by the Roman Arch of Titus and is so large that an early daredevil flew his plane through it.

Beneath the Arc is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the First World War. Interred here on Armistice Day 1920, it burns in memory of the dead who were never identified (now in both World Wars).

The Arch has one lift, to the level underneath the exterior observation floor. Visitors can either climb 284 steps to reach the top or take the lift and walk up the remaining 46 steps. From the top there is an excellent view of all

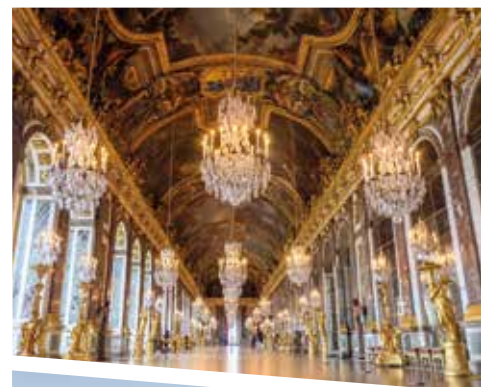
Paris and of the 12 major avenues leading to and from the Arch.

A short train ride from the centre of Paris will take you out to the stunningly beautiful **Palace of Versailles**. Having visited (again, years ago), I recommend leaving more time than you think you might need to explore the château and the estate.

When the château was first built, Versailles was a mere country village. Now it is a suburb of Paris with city status in its own right and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In 1660, Louis XIV was looking for a site for his court, near Paris, but away from the tumults and diseases of the crowded city. He settled on the royal hunting lodge at Versailles, and over the following decades it expanded into the largest palace in the world.

As well as the various extravagantly decorated palaces and out-buildings, the grounds of Versailles contain one of the largest formal gardens ever created, with extensive parterres, fountains and canals.

I recommend you buy tickets to visit Versailles in advance. The official website is en.chateauversailles.fr and here you'll find the various ticket options.





PREVIOUS PAGE: THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE ©ISTOCKPHOTO.
SACRÉ COEUR, PALACE OF VERSAILLES, JARDIN DE LUXEMBOURG ©SHUTTERSTOCK.
ABOVE: AERIAL VIEW OF RIVER SEINE AND EIFFEL TOWER ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

BENEATH PARIS

Not necessarily one for the faint-hearted but one for those who like to explore a city beyond the regular visitor sights, the **Catacombs of Paris** is the largest ossuary in the world. At 20 metres deep and 1,500 metres long, it has been open to the public since 1809 and houses the remains of several million Parisians. Explore the story and purchase tickets at catacombes.paris.fr/en.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

With more than 400 parks and gardens, Paris is the most wooded capital in Europe, so there's no excuse to not explore at least a few of them.

The **Jardin de Luxembourg**, located just down the hill from the **Pantheon**, is probably one of the most picturesque and popular. It is also home to the Luxembourg Palace, the former home of Queen Marie de Medici, which today houses the French Senate.

One of my favourites is the **Jardin des Tuileries**, one of the most historic and grand gardens in the city and situated between the Louvre Museum and Place de la Concorde. Discover sculptures by artists including Rodin and Giacometti, and the **Musée de**

l'Orangerie which houses Monet's famous water lilies series.

GETTING AROUND PARIS

One of the best tickets to purchase is the Paris Passlib' – the official Paris city pass. Download the Paris Passlib' app to your smartphone and either enter the number on your pass or scan the QR code received when purchase was

confirmed. Available in six versions, the fully digital pass can be instantly activated and used.

Discover the Paris Passlib' at parisjetaime.com/eng/article/paris-passlib-a978

The Paris Olympics and para-Olympics take place from 26 July. Tickets are available from tickets.paris2024.org

BEYOND PARIS – THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER

A trip to Disneyland® Paris will not only light up the kids' faces but the adults, too! See Mickey, Minnie, Woody, Buzz et al on a magical trip that's closer to home.

It's easy to get to the park from the airport as the Magical Shuttle service provides regular connections between Paris-Charles De Gaulle airport and the Disney® Hotels, the Disney® Parks, other hotels located close to Disneyland® Paris and Les Villages Nature Paris, on both arrival and departure days. Check out magicalshuttle.co.uk for further details.

Paris-Charles De Gaulle airport is the largest in France. As well as flights to other European destinations, there are flights to

the Middle and Far East, America, Canada and South Africa (to name just a few), so it truly is an international hub. For Guernsey residents, this opens up a new way of travelling – why not add on a night or two in Paris as well?

Rail travel around Europe is incredibly easy, fast and generally on time. Take a regional express services (RER B) train from Charles de Gaulle to Paris which run every 10 minutes between the airport and the city centre and stop at the main stations in Paris, including Paris Gare du Nord. The journey lasts approximately 30 minutes.

From there, numerous countries are a fast train journey away. Visit raileurope.com/en for tickets.



ABOVE: MUSÉE D'ORSAY; MUSÉE DE L'ORANGERIE; CENTRE POMPIDOU. BELOW: THE LOUVRE. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

ART GALLERIES IN PARIS

Paris is a must for art-lovers, with a wide range of galleries displaying styles from Classical, Art Nouveau and Impressionist to Surrealist, Cubist and Abstract, and everything in-between.

Peter Wilson takes a look at some of the galleries worth visiting:

Louvre

The Louvre is the most visited museum in the world, so be prepared for crowds! Many go just to see the Venus de Milo or the Mona Lisa, but if you are hoping for uninterrupted views of the most famous painting in the world, you will be disappointed. The room is overflowing with visitors taking selfies in front of, rather than appreciating, Leonardo's painting! My advice is to go to some of the quieter galleries, which contain lesser known, but equally stunning works.

Musée d'Orsay

Located on the left bank of the Seine, this former railway station houses the largest collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist masterpieces in the world, including works by Monet, Manet, Degas, Renoir, Cézanne, Seurat, Gauguin and van Gogh.

Less crowded than the Louvre, there is time to appreciate these

wonderful paintings. A very pleasant surprise to me were the works of Alfred Sisley, the British Impressionist landscape painter and contemporary of Monet.

Musée de l'Orangerie

This small museum is most famous as the permanent home of eight large Water Lilies murals by Claude Monet, housed in two oval rooms which form the infinity symbol. My favourite museum in Paris, and in stark contrast to the Louvre, there is the plenty of opportunity to relax and bask in the sheer beauty and serenity of these massive masterpieces.

Espace Dali

Located near the Sacré Coeur, in the Montmartre district of Paris, the collection features engravings, lithographs and three-dimensional sculptures of some of Dali's best known surrealist paintings.

Musée Picasso

Located in the Hôtel Salé, one of the most beautiful 17th century private mansions in Paris, this collection includes more than 5,000 works (paintings, sculptures, drawings, ceramics, prints, engravings and notebooks), a large portion of which were donated by Picasso's family after his death, in accord with the wishes of the artist, who lived in France from 1905 to 1973.

Centre Pompidou

As well as housing a vast public library, this iconic 'inside-out' building opened in 1977 contains the largest museum for modern art in Europe, with works by Kandinsky, Frida Kahlo, Chagall, Matisse, Mondrian, Miró and Klein, among many others.

Musée Marmottan Monet

In addition to works by other impressionists, this museum includes a special purpose-built exhibition space in a lower level for the Monet collection. Inspired by the Musée de l'Orangerie, the large, open room allows visitors to see a progression of Monet's work, as well as to view his canvases both up close and from a distance.





ON THE WINGS...

If Valentine's Day has ignited your romantic side, take inspiration for your next trip with our round-up of romantic getaways, all within convenient reach of one of Aurigny's UK airports.

THE GIFT OF... CHOCOLATE

Eschew sugar-laden saccharine candies and instead opt for a romantic break in the chocolate-box village of Broadway. Known as 'the jewel of the Cotswolds', Broadway is a delight to wander around, with boutiques to browse and coffee shops to cosy up in on a chilly February day. Wrap up warm and head to Broadway Tower, an iconic landmark on top of the beautiful Cotswolds escarpment and set in acres of parkland, where you may spot red deer. The tower was the brainchild of the great 18th century landscape designer, 'Capability Brown'. Climb to the roof viewing platform, officially the highest point on the Cotswolds, to find breath-taking views spanning 16 counties and 62 miles in each direction. Opening times and other information at broadwaytower.co.uk.

Follow in the footsteps of the likes of King Charles 1, Prince Philip and the artist John Singer Sargent and stay at The Lygon Arms, a luxurious bolthole right in the heart of Broadway. Curl up in front of a roaring fire or saunter down to the

spa to make use of the impressive facilities – maybe even indulge in a couple's treatment. For the more active, there's plenty to keep guests occupied, with activities ranging from local garden tours, archery and quad biking to distillery tours. Gourmands won't be disappointed either, with celebrity chef James Martin's The Grill restaurant on site, serving up traditional comfort food and seasonal fare.

THE GIFT OF... FLOWERS

Why buy a bouquet when you can head to Kent, aptly known as the 'Garden of England'? The medieval, walled city of Canterbury is easily accessible from London, yet offers a more relaxed pace than the capital. Steeped in history, the centre of Canterbury is compact and navigable on foot, so lends itself to romantic strolls along the cobbled streets, giving the opportunity to take in the picturesque surroundings and perhaps stopping in a cosy pub. Alternatively, if you prefer a waterside view, book a romantic punt for two along the River Stour. Befitting a city, there are shopping opportunities aplenty as well, from the well-known names of the high street to the independent boutiques of the Cathedral Quarter.

The Cathedral – England's first – is worth a visit, with more than 1,400 years of history, impressive architecture and stunning stained glass windows. If you fancy waking

up to views of the Cathedral, then check out Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, a unique and contemporary hotel, situated within the grounds of the Cathedral. A walk along the medieval city walls is a must; start from Castle Street where you can see the ruins of medieval Canterbury Castle.

Head seven miles north to the coast to Whitstable (around 30 minutes by bus) and savour some fresh oysters, the 'food of love', perfect for (allegedly) putting the passion back into your love life... In the northern hemisphere, there's an old rule that native oysters should only be eaten when there's an 'r' in the month... so February is perfect!

In mid-Victorian times, Whitstable supplied around half the oysters eaten in London. Discover more at whitstblemuseum.org.

For the ultimate in relaxation, check into The Pig at Bridge Place, just three miles south of Canterbury. Formerly home to English gentry, Bridge Place subsequently hosted rock royalty in the 1960s and '70s (The Kinks, Led Zeppelin and Ben E. King all visited) and has since been converted into a blissfully restful rural hideaway. This red-bricked retreat is the ideal destination for indulging in simple pleasures: reading, a leisurely soak in the bath using the complimentary Bramley products, a wander through the grounds and spending quality time together. This ethos is reflected



L-R: THE LYGON ARMS, BROADWAY; CANTERBURY CASTLE AND RIVER STOUR; BIRMINGHAM CANAL; CHEWTON GLEN SPA. ALL IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK

OF LOVE

BY ASTRID MITCHISON & AMANDA EULENKAMP

in the décor which reflects the venue's past, with period features and eclectic styling. Be sure to book into the restaurant, where the menu is sourced from within a 25 mile radius (including the on-site kitchen garden) ... you'll definitely be tempted to pig out!

THE GIFT OF... JEWELLERY

The rhyme famously begins, 'Rubies are red...', but rather than gifting a bracelet or earrings, strike gold by booking a trip to England's second city, Birmingham. Home to Europe's largest jewellery quarter, this historic area dates back to the 16th century and today, there are 800 businesses offering everything from unusual antiques to contemporary pieces along with sites worth visiting to understand more about the district's story. The city is also famously multicultural and this cosmopolitan vibe can be seen in everything from the variety of eateries to festivals, including playing host to one of the largest Lunar New Year celebrations in the UK (11 February). Furthermore, there's shopping at the iconic Bullring centre, as well as theatre and music to satisfy aficionados of the arts.

Birmingham boasts more miles of canals than Venice (313 miles to be precise, although don't expect to see any romantic gondola rides!). A kayak or a canal cruise taking in some tunnels of love are perfect ways to enjoy the historic waterways.

Stay in the heart of the city and close to the jewellery quarter at the Grand Hotel. Originally opened in 1879, it's since welcomed royalty and rockstars. Following a £50m. restoration and refurbishment, Birmingham's original grande-dame hotel has recently re-opened, having been closed for almost 20 years.

Check out the Penthouse Suite, a jaw-dropping, duplex suite that comes with its own bar, open-plan dining and living room, table football, walk-in closet and luxurious marble bathroom. Other room types are available! The hotel is a short walk from both Birmingham New Street and Snow Hill rail stations.

Alternatively, base yourselves at the recently renovated Hilton Birmingham Metropole, and make use of the on-site facilities and convenient location for exploring the surrounding attractions. The hotel is connected to the NEC Complex and is a five-minute walk from the Resorts World Arena. Birmingham International rail station is a short 12-minute walk, and a five-minute drive away, with monorail services to Birmingham International Airport. From Birmingham International rail station, it's a 10-minute journey to New Street and the city centre.

THE GIFT OF... SELF-LOVE

Single or celebrating 'galentine's' this year? It's the perfect excuse,

should you need one, to book a spa break.

Chewton Glen (fly to Southampton), just 10 minutes from the New Forest, is the perfect base for both country retreats and seaside escapes. There is even the option to stay in a Treehouse! The spa is the perfect place to reset your natural rhythms in the jets of the hydrotherapy pool, or unwind in the sauna, steam room or next to the indoor pool. You can also choose from a myriad of innovative treatments to soothe and rejuvenate.

Head to Ragdale Hall in the Midlands for some serious pampering, either solo or with friends. It's renowned as a destination spa for good reason. Firstly, there are six pools to soak away all of your stresses, including the rooftop infinity pool which overlooks the rolling Leicestershire countryside. The Thermal Spa experience includes a scented room, volcanic salt bath, rose sauna and incredible colourflow cave to kickstart your reset.

There are also an abundance of wellness activities and fitness classes on offer, from aerobics to Zumba, giving you the option to be as active as you wish, plus a variety of food and drink options, from breakfast in bed to a healthy lunch. Or opt to round off your day with a cocktail in the bar – the focus is on balance not deprivation.

ELLA HARVEY OPENS THE CHANNEL ISLANDS' FIRST DEDICATED PERMANENT MAKE UP CLINIC

Harley Street trained, Ella Harvey brings over 10 years of expertise to Guernsey. Her modern techniques ensure that treatments enhance your features, keeping them looking natural.

You can enjoy perfect eyebrows, eyeliner, and lips every day, simplifying your morning routine, with results lasting up to three years.

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Ella Harvey, known for her skilled and client-focused approach, is the ideal choice for top-tier permanent makeup services.



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LA CORUÑA – THE CITY OF GLASS

The city of La Coruña, nicknamed the City of Glass, in the Spanish region of Galicia, is locally referred to as 'A Coruña'. This is because the region of Galicia has its own language called Gallego, a blend of Spanish and Portuguese. Throughout Galicia, you'll notice that most places have two names – one in Spanish and one in Gallego.

Whatever you decide to call the city, La Coruña is a hidden gem located on the rugged shores of Spain's northwest coast. Travel blogger Rupert Diggins was fortunate to spend a couple of days in La Coruña as part of an adventure last year which started in San Sebastian in the Basque country, before journeying through the beautiful regions of Cantabria, Asturias and then into Galicia.

And with Aurigny offering a non-stop flight to the city in October from Guernsey (outbound 5 October, return 12 October), it's never too early to start planning that autumn break.

La Coruña is steeped in history and boasts UNESCO heritage sites, places of religious significance,

archaeological museums, impressive architecture, tranquil gardens, coastal walks, stunning beaches and culinary delights.

Let's delve a little deeper into this city with its strong maritime history and sun-soaked shores!

THE OLD TOWN

To discover the lively atmosphere of La Coruña, head to Maria Pita Square. Named after the city's heroine who valiantly defended La Coruña against an English invasion in the 16th century, the square is today surrounded by vibrant cafes and shops. Grab a seat, order a café con leche and savour the blend of history and modernity that defines this dynamic city.

Behind the Maria Pita Square is La Marina Avenue. This pedestrian

street overlooks the port which is lined with yet more restaurants and coffee shops. A key feature here is the elaborate glass balconies which earn the city its nickname, the 'City of Glass'.

Another popular landmark to visit is the 50-metre-high Millennium Obelisk. As you stroll along the waterfront promenade, take in the elegant design and fine detail of this needle-like structure that was built for the new millennium.

Be sure as you wander around the city to visit some of the many scenic parks and gardens such as the Jardines de Méndez Núñez. Also, do not miss exploring the bustling markets like Mercado de la Plaza de Lugo, where you can taste local produce, seafood and other delicacies.



PREVIOUS PAGE: AERIAL VIEW OF TOWER OF HERCULES
COASTAL LIGHTHOUSE, HARBOUR AND CITY FROM THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.
ABOVE: PLAZA DEL CASTILLO, OLD TOWN. IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

TORRE DE HERCULES & SAN ANTON CASTLE

Built by the Romans in the first-century, Torre de Hercules, is the world's oldest working lighthouse and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This building has withstood the test of time, and you can almost hear the echoes of ancient sailors thanking the gods for a guiding light as you climb the lighthouse's twisting stairway, which is said to have been erected by Hercules himself.

The San Anton Castle was constructed in the sixteenth century to protect the city from maritime attacks, and currently serves as the home of the La Coruña Archaeological and History Museum. Situated on an island joined by a charming bridge, the castle provides expansive vistas of the Atlantic coast. Visitors can go on a voyage through the nautical history of the area by exploring the centuries-old stories, antiques and exhibits housed behind its stone walls.

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

La Coruña offers visitors several places of significant cultural interest.

Visit the Domus, an interactive science museum devoted to the human body and created by renowned architect Arata Isozaki.

The Picasso House Museum offers insights into the renowned artist's life during his stay in La Coruña.

For art aficionados, the Museo de Belas Artes (Museum of Fine Arts) is home to an impressive collection of Spanish art spanning several centuries.

THE BEACHES

Two of La Coruña's most celebrated sandy beaches are Playa Riazor and Playa Orzan. Visitors enjoy sun-soaked shores and vibrant promenades. The beaches are perfect for those looking to sunbathe, while those of a more active persuasion can rent a paddle-board or sailing boat, play beach volleyball, or sign up at a surf school.

There are some fabulous coastal walks especially the Paseo Marítimo which is highly recommended.

SPORTS IN LA CORUÑA

As well as the water sports there are plenty of land-based options too. There are cycling paths throughout the city, or you can travel further afield and enjoy wonderful coastal and mountain trails.

For those with a love of horse riding you can make a visit to a local stable who offer you the chance to take a ride through the breathtaking Galician countryside.

The Golf Balneario de La Toja Golf Course is perhaps the most famous in the region and provides golfers with not only a challenge, but also spectacular scenery.

FESTIVALS & FLAMENCO

Immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture, filled with music, dance and traditional festivities.

An especially magical event is the Festival of San Juan in June. Join the locals on the beaches and dance to traditional music while bonfires illuminate the night sky.

Spain is famous for Flamenco and here in La Coruña you can always find a venue where guitars, vocals and rhythmic clapping fills the air.

THE CAMINO INGLES

La Coruña, along with the neighbouring city of Ferrol, marks the starting point of the famous 'Camino Inglés' pilgrimage, also known as the 'English Way.' This trail offers a shorter and less strenuous journey compared to other Camino de Santiago routes.

Pilgrims from medieval times disembarked in La Coruña before commencing their pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. If you are planning a journey through Galicia, you will need to decide between starting in Ferrol or La Coruña.



CULINARY DELIGHTS

La Coruña and Galicia is known for high quality fresh seafood and regional specialities. Indulge in the local tapas at bustling taverns and embrace the local customs by trying delicious appetizers, such as empanadas stuffed with seafood or even Pulpo a la Gallega, a type of octopus prepared in the Galician style.

If seafood is your thing, then head along to the vibrant fish market at La Lonja, where fishermen raucously sell their daily catch. Further local seafood specialities include gambas a la plancha (grilled prawns), Navajas (razor clams) and Percebes (barnacles).

Be sure to sample the regional wines, such as the Galician Albariño which is an ideal accompaniment to those incredible seafood dishes. La Coruña is the home of the Estrella Galicia beer and there is nowhere better to try it than at the Cerveceria Estrella Galicia.

This buzzing, atmospheric bar has on-site copper brew kettles, and from its restaurant, wonderful Tapas. This is also a great place to watch sport, especially when the Spanish football games are shown. Just prepare for a lively evening!

A GALICIAN WELCOME

In La Coruña you are sure to receive the warmest of welcomes. The locals are known for their friendliness, so be sure to engage in their relaxed pace of life and enjoy the city, the beaches, the music, the cuisine and just meandering through the streets of the Old Town.

Your dreams won't be shattered in the city of glass. Far from it, you will, as I did, enjoy a wonderful city break in the gorgeous Galician town of La Coruña.

For more information on visiting La Coruña in Northern Spain, contact the La Coruña Tourist Office or the Galicia Tourist Office. Visit Spain or contact your local travel agent or tour operator.

Rupert Diggins is a UK travel blogger and the founder of www.justonefortheroad.com

ABOVE: LA CORUNA PROMENADE AND MARINA. ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

RIGHT TOP TO BOTTOM: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA CATHEDRAL, THE FINISH OF THE 'CAMINO DE SANTIAGO' PILGRIMAGE; THE MILLENIUM OBELISK; THE 'CITY OF GLASS' BALCONIES OF THE AVENIDA DE LA MARINA; 'PULPO A LA GALLEGA' GALICIAN STYLE OCTOPUS; ESTRELLA GALICIA BEER. IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK.



VIVA VALENCIA

Last autumn, Nick Le Poidevin took the three-hour direct flight from Guernsey to Valencia with Aurigny.

Valencia Airport is located some five miles west of the city and handles around 9,000,000 passengers each year. Transport options to the city include taxis, the bus (line 150) and the metro (lines 3 and 5). I elected for the metro which has trains leaving from the ground floor level of the airport terminal roughly every 15 minutes, the journey to the city taking around 25 minutes to complete. Expect to pay €4.90 for a single fare or €6.00 return if you purchase an open return ticket, as I did.

I was staying in Valencia Old Town, so I found the station at Colón to be the most convenient. Close by you will find large department stores such as El Corte Inglés. Also nearby is the starting point for the open-top bus tours.

There are a couple of operators, I chose the Valencia Bus Turistic whose red double-decker buses are easily recognisable. There are 17 stops around the city and the whole loop takes around two hours to complete. There are also stops close to the harbour and the beach as well as at the Bioparc, which is mentioned later in this article.

The Old Town is relatively compact, so I found I could explore most of it on foot. One of my favourite spots was the Plaza de la Reina which, has been transformed in recent times into a spacious pedestrian area that can host events and celebrations. The Plaza is also home to the city's cathedral, a climb up the 207 steps inside the cathedral's bell tower affords excellent views over the city.

The nearby square called Plaza de la Virgen is a must-see when visiting the cathedral. The square is a great place to walk around or simply to sit and people watch.

Further away, and next to the city's bullring, is the station from which short and medium distance trains operate. Known as Estación del Norte, the station was opened in 1917 and is worth a look inside simply to admire the marvellous examples of the region's homegrown Art Nouveau. Not too far away is the attractive square known as Plaza del Ayuntamiento, with its many fountains, which is home to a number of Neo-Classical buildings including Valencia's main Post Office and the Town Hall.

A must see is the Mercado Central which is a monumental Valencian Art Nouveau style landmark with an impressive metal and glass dome constructed between 1914 and

1928. The market, which claims to be one of the largest in Europe, is home to around 300 stalls selling fresh produce. I would recommend an early morning visit to experience it at its busiest.

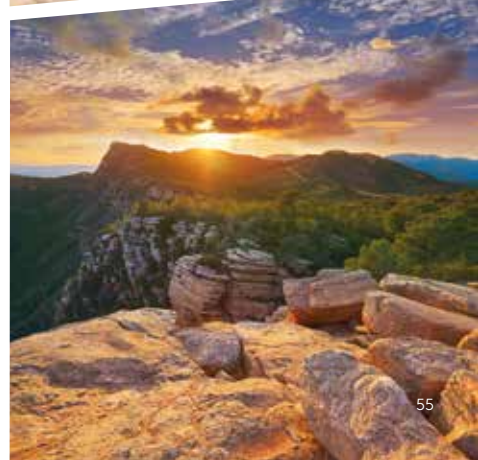
Opposite Mercado Central can be found La Lonja de la Seda (the Silk Exchange), a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, that is worth the small admittance fee to fully appreciate it. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

Jardin del Turia was once a riverbed and meanders through the historic centre of Valencia, passing under a number of bridges. It stretches more than five miles and was opened in 1996. Gardens, ponds and fountains can be found everywhere and, not surprisingly, it is a popular place for joggers. The river that previously flowed through this area was called the Rio Turia, but it was diverted away from the city following a big flood in 1957.

Personally, I preferred the extensive gardens of Jardines del Real and the palm and cactus filled garden of Jardin Botánico. My favourite, however, was the small and rather hard to locate garden of Jardin de Montforte which is laid out in a Neo-Classical style with cypress hedges, statues sculpted in Carrara marble and a summer pavilion.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: VALENCIA OLD TOWN; THE CENTRAL MARKET; PLAZA DE LA VIRGEN; L'UMBRACLE AT CITY OF ARTS & SCIENCES; MUSEUM OF ARTS & SCIENCES; TURIA PARK; GARBI PEAK AT SUNSET, SIERRA CALDERONA. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO



Bioparc Valencia is not a park in the traditional sense but rather a 25-acre zoo park. It is owned by the City Council of Valencia and has a large collection of African fauna. The park opened in early 2008 and currently has an animal population of around 4,000. The park is focused on Africa, so it does not have animals from other parts of the world. It is designed so that you can view many wild animals up close, the animals being kept in enclosures which mimic their natural environment as closely as possible. It is recommended to allow three to four hours to properly explore the park. Entrance costs €22.50 for adults and €17.50 for children.

If you are an aesthete then I can recommend the Museo de Bellas Artes and the Institut Valencia d'Art Modern (IVAM), the latter claims to have over 10,000 art works in its permanent collection.

For something completely different head south-eastwards away from the Old Town to the dazzling City of Arts and Science, the new urban centre of the Valencia of the third millennium. The construction took over two decades to complete and replaced what was previously an industrial area. It is the most important and modern tourist destination in the city of Valencia

and is apparently classed as one of the 12 Treasures of Spain. Here you will find an IMAX Cinema, an interactive museum of science, an open structure enveloping a landscaped walk with plant species indigenous to Valencia, the largest oceanographic aquarium in Europe with 500 different species as well as an opera house and performing arts centre dedicated to music and the performing arts.

If you have time, you can travel to the mountain range of Sierra Calderona which climbs to nearly 3,000 feet. There are numerous caves in these mountains as well as deep river gorges. It is here that you will find the Natural Park of the Calderona Range with numerous marked paths for hikers. Another place to consider visiting is the Parque Natural de la Albufera, located around six miles from the city, which is a shallow coastal lagoon covering an area of around nine square miles and is separated from the sea by a narrow sandy coastal bar. The lagoon is surrounded by paddy fields and woods and is a popular place for bird watching.

If you wish to experience Valencia first hand, why not take advantage of Aurigny's direct flights which depart weekly from Guernsey on Saturdays in late April 2024.





ABOVE LEFT: THE WALKER ART GALLERY; THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL.
LEFT: ALBERT DOCK. BELOW LEFT: ANFIELD STADIUM; THE CAVERN CLUB; TATE MODERN.
ABOVE: MERSEY FERRY, THE THREE GRACES AND ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

Liverpool packs a punch for every type of visitor thanks to its rich musical heritage, culinary diversity, maritime history and sporting prowess. The birthplace of the Beatles is today bursting with character and charm thanks to its iconic waterfront, strong foodie scene and noteworthy architecture. Make the most of your visit trip with Jessamy Baldwin's 48 hr guide.

Getting there: Aurigny will be operating flights to Liverpool three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from the end of March through to end of October 2024. Arriva's 500 bus service runs between the airport and Liverpool city centre every 30 minutes. A private taxi costs around £40-£50.

DAY ONE:

Kick start your visit with brunch and a walk through the waterfront neighbourhood and Albert Dock. Here, history, culture and gastronomy collide in the largest collection of UNESCO-listed buildings in the country. Check out the iconic Beatles statue at the Pierhead followed by a visit to the immersive Beatles Story exhibition - an interactive and evocative adventure through the lives and music of the world's most famous band. Next, it's time for the free Tate Liverpool gallery and Merseyside Maritime Museum. Take in the view of the famous Liver Building's architecture (or head inside for a 360 degree tower tour) and step back in history at the Titanic Memorial. If you have

time, head to the British Music Experience in the beautiful Cunard Building. From here, explore the Duke Street Food and Drink Market, before heading to Bold Street to peruse the indie shops. Stroll through the picturesque Georgian Quarter and take a moment to enjoy Falkner Square, before hitting Hope Street.

Jump in a taxi and finish your sightseeing with a visit to the childhood homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney, run by the National Trust (booking essential). Finish off with dinner in the city. If you're after a lively evening, Pins social club offers bowling, shuffleboard, live music and food. Those after a slower pace can take in a film at the Everyman cinema.

DAY TWO:

Blow the cobwebs away with a visit to Anfield — Liverpool FC's stadium — where you'll walk in the footsteps of some of England's greatest sporting stars in a behind-the-scenes experience. Alternatively, explore Liverpool One with over 170 bars, shops and restaurants. If you fancy a relaxing afternoon why not head to 30 St James Street for some relaxation in their spa and rooftop bar?

Those looking to keep exploring can head to lush Sefton Park. This 235-acre garden oasis changes with the seasons and boasts the gorgeous Palm House. Walk down to the large Boating Lake, explore waterfalls and caves and rent a city bike to see more of the expansive park. Afterwards, if you've still got time, cycle over to historic

Sudley House (free entry, open Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 4pm). This immaculate Victorian estate is filled with magnificent artworks and furniture. Finish the day by taking in a stand-up set at the Hot Water Comedy Club or a show at one of the city's stunning theatres.

Where to eat + drink: Albert Dock, Castle Street, Bold Street, the Ropewalks Quarter, the Grand Central Food Bazaar, Baltic Triangle and Chinatown are all famous for their foodie hot spots.

For breakfast, Lucy in the Sky, LEAF and The Tavern Company are not to be missed. For lunch or dinner, The One O'Clock Gun, Mowgli, Lu Ban, Maggie May's (for Liverpool's famous delicacy, Scouse Stew) or Casa Italia are fabulous.

Top tip: The best way to see Liverpool is on foot. Join a walking tour with Liverpool Famous Walking Tours and feel the city come alive with tales of its wild and wonderful past. Another great way to see the city's main sights is from the 50-minute Mersey River Ferry. Or, why not hire a bike?

DID YOU KNOW?

- Liverpool was once one of the richest cities in the world.
- Between 1830 and 1930 at least 9,000,000 emigrants sailed from Liverpool for a new life in Australia, the US and Canada.
- Liverpool has more museums and galleries than any other UK city outside London.



LONDON FROM A DIFFERENT DIRECTION

Choice. Choice. Choice. Where we have had one London airport to fly in and out of (Gatwick), now we have three (plus Stansted and City). Each has its own distinctive look, its own network of onward flights, road and rail links. So, what do the two new additions offer islanders?

Amanda Eulenkamp finds out.

Business folk should be celebrating the return of London Stansted and London City to Aurigny's network. Why, over Gatwick? Geographically, the two new additions are situated to the north and east of London respectively. Both have fast routes into the city centre and the financial district.

The Stansted Express trains are the quickest and most direct way to travel between London Stansted airport and the capital. Services run every 15 minutes and tickets can be booked for

as little as £9.45 one-way when bought in advance. The train terminates at Liverpool Street Station, right in the heart of the City. The financial district is home to the Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral and London Bridge, so if you're visiting any of these, consider flying to Stansted and heading into London from the north.

The Docklands Light Railway (DLR line) runs from London City airport. Trains depart every 8-15 minutes, and it takes less than seven minutes to reach Canning

Town where you can change to join the Jubilee Line. City airport is ideal if doing business at Canary Wharf as its compact size makes it a superb airport to travel through. It's also great if you are travelling on leisure and going to an event at the O2. Check out theo2.co.uk to find out what's going on at the arena.

Other attractions near London City airport include Greenwich, just a few miles away and home to the Cutty Sark, Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory and Greenwich Park.



LEFT: LONDON CITY AIRPORT; THE CUTTY SARK; ROYAL OBSERVATORY AT GREENWICH.
ABOVE: STANSTED AIRPORT; PUNTING ON THE CAM AT CAMBRIDGE; ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL.
ALL IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK

FURTHER AFIELD

Stansted airport is situated in north-west Essex near the Hertfordshire border. There is a railway station at the airport and the M11 is on the doorstep, so onward connections by road and train are fast and straightforward.

The revival of the Stansted route opens up easy access to Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. For some history and culture, visit St Albans for its beautiful cathedral (the oldest site of continuous Christian worship in Britain – see stalbanscathedral.org) or head to Hatfield House where Queen Elizabeth I spent much of her childhood (hatfield-house.co.uk).

Cambridge is less than an hour away and is packed full of things to see and do. Make your way to the Mill Lane punt station and

enjoy a chauffeured tour of The Backs, taking in iconic sights such as King's College Chapel and the Bridge of Sighs. For the more adventurous, try your own punting! All the city centre colleges can be visited by the public, although some may require advance booking.

Europe's largest air museum, Imperial War Museum Duxford, houses a huge collection of aircraft and aviation exhibits and is a mere 22 miles from Stansted. Look out for restored 1967 Islander aircraft 'Charlie November', one of the first to be flown by Aurigny. Allow at least half a day (if not longer) to enjoy the full Duxford experience. Plan your visit at iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford.

Check out onward flights from Stansted – with more than 200 destinations in 40+ countries,

Stansted (the UK's fourth busiest airport) offers a great alternative to Gatwick or Heathrow for holidays. Its top international destinations include Rome, Malaga, Barcelona and Cologne.

Likewise, London City has a fantastic array of onward connections, and with only one terminal, travelling through the airport can often be quicker than at any other London airport. Ideal for business travellers, there are regular flights to places like Luxembourg and Frankfurt. In recent years, the airport has increased its leisure destinations, including destinations like Palma and Chambery.

The airport is busiest in the winter months, when a number of airlines (such as British Airways and Swiss) fly to ski resort gateway destinations, such as Zurich, Geneva and Milan.

Spectacular spaces. Dynamic design.

Studio is an award-winning architecture and design practice working on residential, commercial and community projects across Guernsey and beyond.

Our considered, contextual designs create beautiful, functional and sustainable structures and spaces that will be enjoyed for generations. We take pride in the integrity of our process, tailoring each design to meet the precise needs of each client and site, and working closely with trusted contractors and consultants to deliver exceptional results. Already part of our wider offering for existing clients, landscape and interior design are now also available as standalone services. For a glimpse of what we do, take a look at these four recently completed projects – our entries for the 2024 **Guernsey Design Awards**. To discuss how we can work together, get in touch today.



Murata

Within the context of this protected 18th-century residential building at the heart of St Peter Port, we created a contemporary and comfortable indoor/outdoor entertaining space with exquisite detailing.

A surgical incision into the historic external wall allows the space to open up into the garden – a modern intervention that preserves the significance of the original structure.

La Fosse Cottage

Our renovation of this listed 17th-century Guernsey granite cottage has more than doubled the amount of living space.

The sleek but delicate contemporary design both preserves and contrasts with the charm and character of the protected cottage, creating harmony between old and new. The new spaces created draw in an abundance of natural light and connect to the landscape, bringing trees almost into the home. The clients, a young family, are already loving the difference the project has made to their lives.

Art for Guernsey

Our work on Art for Guernsey's Mansell Street home continued our longstanding support of, and collaboration with, this laudable local charity. The result is a warm, welcoming and stylish space, upgraded to provide all the kit the AFG team require to do what they do. The project brings new life to the Old Quarter and gives Art for Guernsey a home that it, and the whole island, can be proud of.

Canvas Nightclub

In a fast-track commission, we transformed a dated and dilapidated relic into a stylish contemporary dance club and event space, unrecognisable from its previous form as Fusion.

Using honest, simple interventions to affect big changes, our design has created a venue that far exceeds anything Guernsey has seen before in terms of aesthetics and experience.





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PRIVATE WEALTH:

A MOSAIC OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS NEXT GEN WEALTH

BY CATHERINE MOORE, PARTNER IN
OGIER'S PRIVATE WEALTH TEAM IN GUERNSEY

ADVERTORIAL

The 'great wealth transfer,' is underway and has been a central focus in Ogier's recent series: 'Conversations with the next gen'.

In previous articles, we've discussed changing demographics and the involvement of the next gen in managing private capital for their families, highlighting differences in attitudes when compared to previous decades. These distinctions, coupled with the fast paced technological world, have given rise to a diverse set of attitudes when it comes to discussing and managing wealth.

In a survey carried out among high-net-worth next gen individuals in the USA in 2022, respondents noted what they do and don't agree with their parents on; 55% fully agreed on gender roles, 53% fully agreed on how to run the family office and 53% fully agreed on family business succession planning but were the most likely to disagree on topics such as the role of cryptocurrency (38%), politics (20%), and religion (20%).¹

THE CUSTODIAN OF WEALTH

Next gens' experience is often influenced by the fact that the wealth may not have been generated by them but transferred to them by previous generations. This often gives rise to a feeling of responsibility to act as a guardian but with a heightened awareness around public opinion and what it means to be wealthy. For many, this can lead to an internal battle between their role as guardians of the family wealth and their own moral obligations to their community.

BUILDING UPON SUCCESS

The shift towards involving family members in these discussions earlier on can lead to a real sense of ownership and stewardship of the family business before the reigns are passed over. PwC's research² indicates that 65% of next gen family business members prioritise achieving business growth.

A CONDUIT FOR CHANGE

Nearly 64% of next gen family business members believe their family business can lead the way in sustainable business practices. This is evident from the growth in sustainable investments, sustainable practices and government targets, which all reflect the change in the attitude of investors. With increased involvement in managing family wealth, this offers a

platform for the next gen to express their beliefs and inspirations. They can influence wealth management from a sustainability perspective while maintaining an alignment with family values.

THE DIGITAL WORLD

As part of the shift to the next gen, they are more likely to advocate for the adoption of new digital tools and technology in the family business and prefer exploring digital investments and alternative currencies. Even the manner in which these are managed will become more digitalised and automated in order to take advantage of efficiencies created by technology.

USE OF WEALTH

While some next gen individuals wish to conserve or grow their wealth, others are uncomfortable to receive such significant wealth, considering the impact such wealth could have socially, philanthropically and economically. This has, on occasion, led to trust funds being paid over to charity rather than being retained to benefit the family.

GUIDING THE NEXT GEN

Regardless of their views, advisers note the next gen's candour and bold ambitions. Establishing clear communication channels between generations is imperative so that the next gen can bring new and innovative ideas to the table. A collaborative approach will prompt greater understanding between all parties and lay the groundwork to put in place flexible frameworks that not only meet the needs of the next gen, but can maximise their diverse interests, values and attitudes.

Having those conversations early on can help mitigate risk and the potential for interfamily disputes or unmet expectations in the long run. From a structuring perspective, this underlines the importance of flexibility and being open to exploring innovative frameworks to meet the divergent needs of a multigenerational family.

With the support of specialist advisers, the next gen is playing an ever increasing role in the management of private capital and contributing to the stewardship of the family wealth and culture.

Read more from our series 'Conversations with the next gen' at [Ogier.com](https://www.ogier.com)

¹ 2022 BYN Mellon Wealth Management report in conjunction with Campden Wealth entitled 'The Next Generation of Wealth Holders in the United States.'

² PwC Global NextGen Survey 2022

2-REG GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Nearly 1,000 aircraft have been registered with Guernsey's aircraft registry 2-Reg since it was founded just over 10 years ago. The registry is owned by the States of Guernsey and provides aircraft registration services to aircraft lessors for the purpose of lease transitions and private aircraft owners and operators. States director of operations Damon Hackley said the registry has gone from strength to strength since it was founded.

'It provides economic and social value to Guernsey,' he said. 'It has become a significant player in the aircraft registry arena, and I look forward to seeing it grow even further in the future.'

Aircraft registrar Matt Bisson said that 2-Reg operated at zero cost to the States of Guernsey and presented a low commercial risk with a manageable reputational impact, offering significant benefits to local businesses. 'The company has created access to the aerospace sector for Guernsey's financial and legal services that previously did not exist,' he said.

SGI Group is the strategic partner of the States on the project and Mr Bisson said this had been working well. 'The strategic partnership with SGIG has been key to the success



Canadian Challenger 600 jet being registered on 2-Reg as part of an air operators certificate, 2017.

and growth of the local aerospace sector. I look forward to helping to drive the next 10 years,' he said. Channel Islands Civil Aviation director John Nicholas said the registry's success was testament to the safety culture of the team.

'Looking ahead, 2-Reg aims to enhance its offerings, explore new market opportunities, and provide further accessibility to its stakeholders across the globe, delivering exceptional value with around-the-clock response times,' he said. '2-Reg also plans to endeavour to work with the wider aviation stakeholders in Guernsey to broadcast the region's offerings, and truly distinguish it as a global leader in aviation and beyond.'

JTC ACQUIRES BLACKHEATH



JTC chief executive officer
Nigel Le Quesne

JTC is to acquire UK-based boutique asset management business Blackheath.

The deal is expected to complete during Q1 2024.

Blackheath has a strong reputation for providing bespoke management and regulatory oversight services to investment funds.

The addition of a ManCo solution alongside JTC's existing UK fund administration, corporate and depositary services

will allow the company to provide a full service offering to firms looking to launch, market, and manage UK alternative investment funds.

On completion, Blackheath will become part of the JTC Global AIFM solutions business within its institutional client services division.

'We are delighted to announce the acquisition of Blackheath, which will strengthen our existing global AIFM solutions business in the important UK alternative asset management market,' said JTC chief executive officer Nigel Le Quesne. 'The business has excellent alignment with our existing fund administration and depositary businesses in the UK and Europe.'

JT INTRODUCES NEW PASSWORDLESS TECH

JT Group has introduced new ground-breaking passwordless technology. Silent Authentication+ is the result of collaboration with Silicon Valley-based anti-fraud specialist Honey Badger and is set to redefine how individuals access password-protected services.

The joint venture harnesses the same cryptographic technology employed by mobile networks to authenticate calls and data sessions.

'The launch of Silent Authentication+ represents a fundamental shift in how we approach customer authentication,' said JT chief product officer Tom Noel. 'Its speed, security and simplicity will change our interaction with password-protected services. Despite big technological advances and greater levels of awareness, passwords, systems access and user data are still susceptible to social engineering and fraud. Silent Authentication+ is completely immune to such measures.'

Up to 20 times faster than a one-time password, Silent Authentication+ comes with additional security measures including in-built fraud detection, making it a turnkey solution for user logins, payment authentications and account recovery, reducing susceptibility to phishing and other fraudulent practices.

The technology facilitates communication between the device and the network without the need for third-party apps, ensuring a super-fast, frictionless process.

Silent Authentication+ is now available for integration with Android, iOS and web application.

POLYGON REBRAND



Back L-R: Ed Daubeney, Alex Belcher, Martin Belcher, Verienne Belcher, Paul Wright. Front L-R: Lisa Wharton-Edwards, Amanda Groves, Nick Heys, Jo Leese, Henry Mowbray, Sandra Fernandes.

Independent family-owned investment company, Polygon Collective, has brought all its group-owned companies under the Polygon brand.

Formerly known as Vantage Insurance Brokers in both Guernsey and Jersey as well as Vantage Underwriting and Vantage Pension Trustees, all will operate under the Polygon name going forward.

'The reason to bring all our companies under the Polygon umbrella couldn't be a more compelling one,' said Martin Belcher, chairman of Polygon Group. 'We are trying to keep things simple and provide the best possible service, regardless of our offering. So whether it be our serviced offices, employment data analysis, insurance or pensions offerings – we have a lot of expertise under one roof which is unique for a truly independent organisation. Everyone already knows us as Polygon, so why not call ourselves Polygon across the board.'

'The rebrand couldn't have come at a better time too. The Polygon Insurance brokerage across both islands is seeing a significant growth trajectory with a recruitment drive in specialist skills to service this market. We are an independent company with multiple facets operating like a family and as a team; to align all our services under the Polygon family was an easy decision.'

The rebrand is part of the on-going strategic expansion plans that the Collective has, supported by the launch of the new website.



FEMALE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME AT HSBC

Fifteen HSBC employees from across Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man have graduated from the bank's inaugural female leadership programme. HSBC Rise, launched last year, aims to support personal and professional development, by nurturing a workplace environment that champions gender equity and that provides a clear pathway enabling female leaders to flourish.

Over the last six months of 2023, the cohort for the programme took part in a number of workshops and interactive coaching sessions, all aimed at developing female talent, helping them to better navigate career-related challenges and prepare them for more senior roles.

The sessions were facilitated by external learning and development coach and consultant Emma Lloyd and focused on leadership potential and exploring the feeling of personal empowerment and leadership, with the aim of having a lasting impact on personal and professional growth.

'We understand the value of diversity and inclusion as an employer, which is why we are focused on creating an environment that embraces gender equity, where everyone can thrive and develop to their highest potential,' said Elvina Aghajanyan, head of HR, HSBC Channel Islands and Isle of Man. 'We are delighted for the graduates of our HSBC Rise programme and their experience over the past few months will give them a strong platform to become future leaders, as we continue to build a culture across the business that puts equity, diversity and inclusion at its core.'

ESI MONITOR WINS AWARD



L-R: Mohit Chaudhary, Michael Muller and Fred Betley

ESI Monitor has been awarded a National Energy Globe Award in Sustainability Excellence for its FutureTracker platform at the Austrian Trade Commission.

The award is considered today's most prominent environmental accolade and recognises innovative contributions towards environmental sustainability.

It was accepted by ESI Monitor's head of sustainability Fred Betley and chief technology officer Mohit Chaudhary.

'We're truly honoured to receive the award. It's a testament to our team's hard work and dedication,' said Mr Betley.

'This award encourages us to

continue our efforts in helping businesses understand and reduce their environmental impact.'

The award attracts more than 2,000 submissions annual across 170 nations and is a highly respected honour in the environmental sector. It showcases initiatives in energy efficiency, sustainability and renewable energy, as well as the importance of practical solutions in addressing environmental challenges and emphasises the global community's role in environmental conservation.

FutureTracker is an organisational sustainability platform which enables businesses of all sectors and sizes to manage and improve their impact on the world.

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BUZZ SCOOPS MULTIPLE AWARDS

Success at the Davey Awards and w3 Awards has recognised Buzz Creative Studio's work, with the team securing several gold and silver awards for outstanding achievements in various projects.

The Dave Awards is an international award focused exclusively on honouring outstanding creative work from the best small teams across the world. Buzz's work with the Guernsey Football Association at the Guernsey 2023 NatWest International Island Games earned the agency a gold and silver award for its innovative and impactful work in promoting football at the high-profile event.

Buzz also won a gold award from both the Davey Awards and w3 Awards for best recruitment website

and re-brand for Blink Recruitment. A further two silver awards from the w3 Awards were given for outstanding video and graphic work on its own website, buzz.gg.

'Winning these illustrious awards is a reflection of the exceptional talent and dedication of the entire Buzz team. We take pride in delivering innovative and impactful solutions to our clients, and these awards validate our commitment to excellence,' said Buzz Creative Studio managing director, Adam Burroughs. 'Buzz Creative Studio continues to push the boundaries for creativity and innovation in the industry, with these recent awards serving as a testament to their unwavering commitment to delivering outstanding results.'

ADVERTISEMENT

NEW HEADLINE PARTNERSHIP FOR GUERNSEY TOGETHER FESTIVAL

Recruitment consultancy Alexander Daniels has been announced as the new headline partner of the Guernsey Together Festival.

Guernsey Together is the island's largest music festival, celebrating a wide variety of genres.

'Alexander Daniels is delighted to continue its relationship with the Guernsey Together Music Festival. Music, dance, food and drink are very close to our hearts!' said managing director Andy Partlow. 'In speaking with the organisers about their vision and passion for the festival, we wanted to increase our support. Discovering exactly how our support would further enable the festival and benefit all festival goers was music to our ears.'

'Music is an extremely important and powerful part of many people's lives, the organisers' ambition to make this as accessible as possible to everyone in Guernsey is a huge motivator for us.'

'To be given the opportunity to be a part of this special, family-friendly festival and to contribute to its sustainability and future is a huge privilege, and we look forward to working with the organisers and to welcoming everyone.'

The festival takes place on 25 and 26 May at the Rabbit Warren. Tickets go on sale at the end of February.



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**Norman
Piette**

A DAY IN THE LIFE



MIMI MADELL, NORMAN PIETTE'S EXECUTIVE MANAGER OF LIGHTSIDE TAKES US THROUGH HER DAY

MY ALARM GOES OFF...

... well, two small children are my alarm clock – at nine months and three years old they tend to beat the alarm clock to it! Generally, we'll all be up by 6.30am, then get everyone dressed, fed and ready to be out the door by 7.45am. At Norman Piette, we're open from 7am but I have the flexibility to start at 8.15am, which is incredibly useful for the school run.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

... the Building & Decorating Centre, the Doors, Floors & Joinery department and the Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom Showroom. Basically, all the staff and products on the ground floor of the main building.

Part of my role is to decide what products we bring in, how we present and market them, oversee our level of customer service and generally run this piece of business to be as successful as it can be. Lightside is a busy but fun department with around 7,000 stock product lines, hundreds of special orders in and out each month and an incredibly varied customer base.

At one end of the spectrum, we have tradesmen who need to get in and out quickly and massively rely on us to have vital products in stock and ready to go. At the other end we can have retail customers looking for their dream kitchen or bathroom. Understandably they want to spend more time here, explore different options and have much more of an experience. Two very different customers with sometimes polar opposite expectations.

I GOT MY JOB BECAUSE...

... my background is actually in advertising, where I've worked for global ad agencies as an account handler and strategic planner looking after brands like Coca Cola, Cancer Research and Peugeot. I was working in London when I met my husband, who is from Guernsey, and we moved here about six years ago.

When I first arrived, I worked at a local agency where Norman Piette was a client, but it was actually after a few years as a COO for a tech-led football company that I was approached about the executive role at Norman Piette and thought 'this could be interesting'.

MY TYPICAL DAY...

... starts just after 8am as I walk through the business, saying 'hi' as I go. Something I'm still getting used to as a Londoner, everyone is so friendly – no silent tube journeys avoiding eye contact here! Then I'll scan emails, look at my 'to do' list, catch up with my team members on top of any meetings I have scheduled for the day. Not only am I responsible for a trading department with its own growth initiatives, but as a member of the executive team I also touch a lot of the operational aspects of the company as a whole. The last few years have been hectic with a lot of improvement plans across the business from bringing in the secondary pension early, to developing our e-commerce platform, implementing tighter stock controls and renovating our staff recreational area... and that's just a few!

MY MOST MEMORABLE WORK MOMENT...

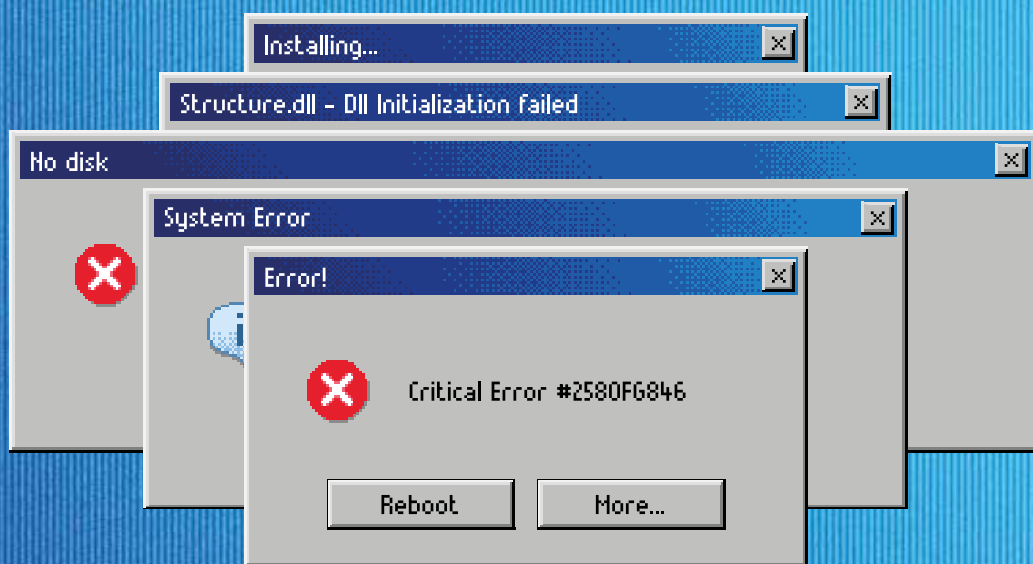
... was probably my first Big Build trade show. For three days, 50 suppliers set up in the yard to demonstrate their wares. It was great getting to meet all our customers, connecting suppliers with islanders and hosting lots of competitions and new products. The buzz in the business is palpable, I'm already looking forward to the next one in September.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB...

... there are lots of things really. Yes, there are important repetitive tasks which ensure the continuity of supply for our customers and the safety of our staff, but I love that every day is different. I am also fascinated by strategies for growth, and their ability to emerge from all areas, and levels, of a business. Here I have the autonomy and support to actually drive those strategies forward at both department and company level.

AFTER I FINISH WORK AT 5...

... it's nursery pick-up and the classic dinner, bath, and bed routine. Where possible, there'll be time for us to get to the gym, go out with mates... I sing in a choir on Wednesdays which is a great stress reliever. In the summer we'll go to the beach as much as possible, but to be honest, some days you can't beat watching a bit of telly and getting an early night.



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CLARITY

CLARITY FOR INVICTA'S BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION



LEFT: KARL LOESER, DIRECTOR, INVICTA.
RIGHT: ADAM PERKINS, CLIENT
RELATIONSHIP MANAGER, CLARITY.

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2024 is an exciting year for Invicta Wealth Solutions and their IT partners, Clarity, who are working together to take the synergy between Trust and Technology to the next level, deploying several new efficiency-focused transformative tools.

WHY WE LOVE PARTNERING WITH CLARITY

'With over £1billion worth of assets under our care, we know it is crucial to provide nothing but the highest quality service to our clients. With the offshore financial environment being as complex and technically demanding as it has ever been, we have partnered with Clarity as our IT provider.'

Invicta Wealth Solutions is an independent trust and company administration services provider, specialising in private client and wealth administration. Director Karl Loeser, who was appointed to Invicta's board in 2023, has worked closely with Clarity to elevate Invicta's business.

'Clarity have supported Invicta's IT systems for 10 years, always ensuring that our team can perform at their best. We value Clarity's guidance in fully utilising our technology to increase the efficiency of our operations, enabling us to grow and innovate as a business without spiralling costs.

We have exceptional people at Invicta that know compliance inside and out. Clarity's Information Security Team do too, and it's reassuring to know that we can depend on them to give us an objective viewpoint. We take their in-person cyber security awareness training annually, which is always engaging, and their critical incident simulations let us test out our disaster recovery and incident response plans.

WHY CLARITY LOVES PARTNERING WITH INVICTA

'Businesses like Invicta are fantastic to work with; their forward-thinking and pro-technology attitude positions them as a successful and secure business, poised for growth.' Adam Perkins has managed the relationship between Invicta and Clarity throughout this project.

'Our Business Transformation Team have enabled Invicta to implement several pragmatic enhancements, such as Robotic Automation, in several of Invicta's internal processes that will really help Karl's teams to capitalise on saved time, doing more of what they do best – managing wealth!'

WHAT NEW SERVICES ARE INVICTA EXCITED ABOUT IN 2024?

Content Management System & Workflows

When Clarity talked to us about their range of intelligent content management systems, we knew that Invicta would benefit straight away. The M-Files software will revolutionise how our documents and content are stored, accessed and processed, adding simplicity for our users as well as the control and security that a regulated business needs. With built-in workflows, users are to be automatically notified when key tasks are awaiting action. It creates efficiencies on processes such as client onboarding.

Process Automation

Clarity's Business Transformation Team have developed bespoke automations that will make us more productive. Their robots take the mundane, repetitive tasks from our working day and handle them in a fraction of the time, letting our team get on with the parts of their roles that need more attention.

Cloud Computing

Clarity's solution architects designed the right mix of private and public cloud environments for our line of business applications and databases. We can access our systems securely and easily, anywhere in the world.

AN EXCELLENT SERVICE

Clarity's service engineers are well known by all the team at Invicta and they know our system. Our projects have been delivered on time and within budget. Invicta feel very looked after by Clarity and plan to continue growing alongside them for years to come.





DR PATRICK HARNETT AND DR THOMAS SAUNDERS,
CONSULTANT PHYSICIANS

MISS LAUREN GREEN AND MR CHUKS NZEWI,
CONSULTANT GYNAECOLOGISTS AND OBSTETRICIANS

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WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE HEALTH OF YOUR PEOPLE?





Four years on from the first cases of Covid in the UK, health and wellbeing continues to be a top priority for individuals and for employers everywhere, and Guernsey is no exception.

According to the latest Health and Wellbeing¹ report from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, Covid caused a step change in employers' priorities, with the percentage of senior leaders focused on health and wellbeing increasing from 61% pre-pandemic to 75% the following year.

Even before Covid, the evidence about the value of employee wellbeing was mounting: As Jerome M Adams writes in his round up of the data in 'The Value of Worker Wellbeing'.²

'Wellbeing is closely linked with health and productivity. Research shows that employees who are in good physical, mental, and emotional health are more likely to deliver optimal performance in the workplace than employees who are not. Healthy and happy employees have a better quality of life, a lower risk of disease and injury, increased work productivity, and a greater likelihood of contributing to their communities than employees with poorer wellbeing.'

The majority of organisations surveyed by the CIPD offer a combination of wellbeing benefits to provide support, promote good health and protect income. More than two out of five (43%) organisations offer health screening, with 30% offering it to all employees and a further 13% offering it according to seniority.

Until now, most Guernsey companies wishing to offer health screening to their employees have had to send them to the UK. But now the Medical Specialist

Group has launched a new health screening service, the only one of its kind on the island.

The consultant-led Advanced Health & Wellbeing Assessment, which includes 47 different lifestyle, medical and non-invasive tests, is being offered to individuals and to companies.

It is available as either 'Silver', with the comprehensive range of 47 tests, a one-hour consultation with a senior MSG consultant, and a detailed personalised report, or as 'Gold' which adds on a personal wellbeing and lifestyle assessment with a registered chiropractor.

The senior consultants involved are consultant gynaecologist and obstetricians Miss Lauren Green and Mr Chuks Nzewi, and consultant physicians Dr Patrick Harnett and Dr Tom Saunders.

'As hospital consultants, we tend to care for patients who already have a condition that needs treatment, and we have less opportunity to get involved in preventative healthcare,' says Dr Saunders.

'So it's great to be involved with a service that is helping to keep people healthy, by detecting any issues early, when they are more treatable, by reinforcing good practice, or simply by giving them peace of mind and enabling them to feel more in control of their own health.'

'For employers, there is plenty of evidence that a healthy workforce is happier and more productive which is why so many organisations are now prioritising health and wellbeing at work. It's great to be able to offer them a service that is on island, rather than requiring travel to the UK, and is integrated with the local healthcare system.'

To find out more or to book your assessment email ehs@msg.gg or call 01481 238565 ext 2233

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 - Bone function
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 - Pelvic ultrasound (women)*
 - Testicle examination (men)*
 - Bladder scan (men)*
- A one- hour consultation with a senior MSG consultant
- A detailed personalised report
- The 'Gold' option also includes a personal wellbeing and lifestyle assessment with a registered Chiropractor

*The three tests above are only provided if the consultant deems them appropriate.

BENEFITS FOR YOUR ORGANISATION

- Promote a focus on a healthy work environment
- Improve the health and peace of mind of your people
- Offer a valuable benefit to attract and retain people
- Ensure early detection and diagnosis of health issues, enabling faster treatment
- Mitigate risks and safety concerns
- Reduce likelihood of long term sickness
- On island – no need to travel

SILVER ASSESSMENT

47 tests and consultation with senior consultant

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GOLD ASSESSMENT

47 tests and consultation with chiropractor or senior musculoskeletal practitioner and senior consultant

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Ask about volume discounts:

- 10% off for 10 or more,
- 15% for 20 or more

¹ CIPD (2023) Health and wellbeing at work. London: Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

² The Value of Worker Well-Being - Jerome M. Adams, 2019 (sagepub.com)

TAX. IT'S NOT A SECRET... BUT

with no inheritance tax, no capital gains tax, no VAT, and a standard flat rate of personal income tax of 20%, Guernsey is not only an idyllic island combining a rich history with friendliness, safety, and fiscal security, it is also a rather discerning location of choice.

Guernsey lies some 40 minutes by plane from Gatwick and about 20 miles from France. Given you are most likely reading this on Aurigny, rest assured, the pilot will have the actual location covered!

The island is self-governing and those who hold a British passport may simply purchase a property on the island's "Open" property market and take up residence. The decision to relocate is usually driven by a strong desire for a better lifestyle, coupled, perhaps, with the need or desire to mitigate, in full or in part, exposure to UK taxation.

The annual Guernsey Budget for 2024 made incremental increases to the island's statutory tax caps. The standard rate of Guernsey personal income tax remains at a flat 20% and the standard rate of Guernsey company income tax remains at 0%. Note that certain Guernsey resident company income can be taxable at 10% or 20%.

The individual tax caps that are available, by statute, limit the annual maximum income tax payable by a Guernsey resident individual, from 1 January 2024 onwards, as follows:

- Open Market Cap of £60,000. Available for the first four years of Guernsey residence. Requires the purchase and occupation of an open market property within 12 months of tax residence. The purchase must generate minimum document duty (or anti-avoidance duty) of £50,000 (property cost of £1.4m).



- Foreign income tax cap of £160,000. This is for non-Guernsey source income only. Guernsey source income remains subject to 20% tax. Guernsey bank interest is not considered Guernsey source.
- Annual tax cap of £320,000. A global cap utilised by individuals with substantial Guernsey source income.
- The "Standard Charge". This is currently £40,000 per annum and is available by election in place of worldwide income disclosure, for those who are, broadly, part time tax resident on the island.

As well as the headline tax caps available, other significant tax incentives for a new resident that should not be overlooked may include:

- Ability to claim double tax relief in Guernsey for UK corporation tax paid, where shareholder control of the UK company is in Guernsey on a UK company distribution.
- Ability to receive certain UK dividends exempt from both UK and Guernsey taxation.
- Ability to receive UK pension income, potentially including a lifetime flexible draw down solely taxable in Guernsey.
- Ability to mitigate UK capital gains tax on gains made upon the disposal of certain UK assets.

There are many tax considerations a new resident might like to consider. The highly experienced and qualified tax team at LTS, who can advise upon all aspects of Guernsey and UK tax, would be delighted to hear from you.



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Senior Associate

BY TODD MCGUFFIN, HEAD OF DISPUTES & RISK; TILLIE GRAHAM, TRAINEE SOLICITOR; VICKY OLIVIER, SENIOR ASSOCIATE, BABBÉ LLP

During the 18th Century the Royal Court of Guernsey presided over a number of trials arising from duels contested in the Islands. One of the most (in)famous duels during that period was between Robert Porret Le Marchant (a future Bailiff), and Thomas Saumarez (later General Sir and the brother of Admiral James Saumarez). Notably, at a 'popular' spot for holding duels in Cambridge Park, Saint Peter Port, a stone plaque commemorates the last known duel to take place in the islands in 1795.

A series of decisions of the Royal Court and the Guernsey Court of Appeal have shown that 'duels' continue to take place in Guernsey, at least in the context of two-director Guernsey companies.

In *Harlequin Chemicals Ltd v Urban*, the Royal Court considered a provision in a company's articles of association which stated 'The office of a director shall be... vacated... if he is requested to resign by written notice signed by all his co-directors...'

In that case, one of the company's two directors, in order to control the board, provided a written notice to his fellow co-director requesting he resign, thereby purportedly removing that director from the board and allowing the remaining director to appoint a favoured nominee.

Applying the interpretation provisions contained in the company's articles and principles of contractual interpretation, the Court held that the article in question could only properly operate if there are 'directors' capable of giving notice; in other words, a majority of the board. The Court noted that the article not only uses the plural but also stresses 'all' co-directors. The Court held that one director could not expel the other by simply getting in first with a notice to resign and that it would be 'extraordinary' for such an article to operate in two-director companies.

A materially identical company article was also examined by the Royal Court in *Midland Resources Holding Ltd v Prodefin Trading Ltd*. While the Court did not have the benefit of the judgment in *Harlequin* as such was not published at the time, the Court reached the same interpretation with similar reasoning. Applying principles set down by the United Kingdom Supreme Court in *Arnold v Britton* and after construing the article objectively, the Court found that it would

be inconceivable that two 50 per cent shareholders would have intended that if there were only two directors, one representing each shareholder, one director could remove the other thus depriving the shareholder of any representation of the board simply by 'firing first'.

On appeal, the Guernsey Court of Appeal affirmed the Royal Court's interpretation in *Midland* and approved the decision in *Harlequin*. The Court of Appeal rejected any alternative interpretation of the article and declared that the matter was put beyond any doubt by a consideration of commercial common sense (being one of the principles laid down in *Arnold*). The Judges of Appeal agreed with the Court's findings in *Harlequin* that it would be extraordinary that commercial parties could have been taken to agree that one director should be able to expel the other by simply getting in first with the request to resign, describing it as a 'gunshot at noon' and 'undesirable'.

The article in question is widely used in Guernsey and in other jurisdictions. While duelling has been prohibited in Guernsey under various laws since the late 18th century (at least as between Guernsey men and women), it is apparent from these judgments that the Guernsey courts wish to ensure that prohibition is maintained in the context of two-director companies.

The Disputes & Risk Team at Babbé LLP advised and appeared for the successful parties in Harlequin before the Royal Court and for a successful respondent in Midland before the Court of Appeal.



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Julius Bär
YOUR WEALTH MANAGER

NAVIGATING CAPITAL MARKETS IN 2024: TRENDS AND RISK DRIVERS

BY CRAIG ALLEN, HEAD OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT,
JULIUS BAER GUERNSEY



As we step into 2024, the capital markets landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, marked by key trends and risk drivers that demand investors' attention.

In this article, Craig Allen, Head of Investment Management at Julius Baer Guernsey, delves into the intricacies of these dynamics, shedding light on areas for investors to consider this year, looking at the return of income investing and the significance of 'store of value' equity markets; as well as the risks that climate change, cyber threats and geopolitical tensions pose.

THE RETURN OF INCOME INVESTING?

The normalisation of interest rates signals the revival of income investing, with bonds far more attractive than they have been for many years. The post-global financial crisis era saw fixed income investors navigating risky segments due to unprecedented central bank support, leading to over USD 18 trillion in negatively yielding debt by December 2020.

However, this trend started reversing towards the end of 2023, offering a window for income investors to lock in attractive yields, not only in high yield but also in the investment-grade segment of the fixed income market. The current investment-grade bond yield environment has become historically attractive with quality segments compensating investors comfortably above expected inflation levels, we expect this investment style to regain popularity over the next decade.

'STORE OF VALUE' EQUITY MARKETS

In times when globalisation expands and geopolitical tensions between the world's largest economies are subdued, investors benefit from not having to pay much attention to international diplomatic disputes when making investment decisions. However, in a multipolar world with heightened geopolitical conflicts, the investment opportunity set narrows.

Investors are advised to favour 'store of value' equity markets, such as the US and Switzerland, where shareholder value is well protected by strong institutional frameworks, governance and efficient capital allocation. Despite the absence of full-blown deglobalisation, focusing on stable markets becomes crucial in times of geopolitical volatility.

USD CAPITAL MARKETS

The USD bull regime, in place since the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, remains dominant in global capital markets. Despite debates over the potential loss of the USD's status as the world's reserve currency, there is little evidence of significant shifts in central bank reserve holdings. The USD's stability, coupled with the US Treasury market's liquidity and quality, continues to attract global investors, making it a default destination for capital deployment.

EMERGING RISKS

As we navigate through 2024, investors must also contend with emerging risks. Climate change poses substantial physical risks from rising sea levels to desertification, affecting productive assets and migration patterns.

Cyber threats, in an increasingly digitalised world, are anticipated to grow, impacting businesses, individuals, governments and the economy.

Dormant systemic risks have to be continuously monitored to assess issues, such as ones that threaten the stability of the economic and financial system.

Geopolitical rivalries have returned with a vengeance in the last few years, the new geopolitical landscape is complex and fragile, as countries tend to deviate opportunistically from seemingly strong alliances driven by national interests.

Infrastructure risk lies at the crossroads between climate change and cyber risk, prompting governments to accelerate their efforts against those threats, and push infrastructure projects to increase their resilience to them.

Investors must navigate emerging risks to make informed decisions in an ever-evolving financial landscape. As the year unfolds, vigilance and adaptability will be key to capitalising on opportunities and mitigating risks in this dynamic environment.

Should you wish to find out more about how Julius Baer can advise you on investing in the capital market, please contact, craig.allen@juliusbaer.com

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A DESIGN FOR LIFE



MARK BOUSFIELD, GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR, INVESTMENTS AT RAVENSCROFT

'LIBRARIES GAVE US POWER, THEN WORK CAME AND MADE US FREE.'

Manic Street Preachers, 1996

The oldest trope in human existence is that the younger generation is not cut from the same stuff as we were. Of course, 'we' can be anywhere from the very last of the Greatest Generation who fought World War II to the Millennials that now make up the largest proportion of the workforce (US figures, but others are similar). For reference:

- Traditionalists, the Silent Generation: 2% (born 1925–1945)
- Baby Boomers: 25% (born 1946–1964)
- Generation X: 33% (born 1965–1980)
- Millennials, Generation Y: 35% (born 1981–2000)
- Generation Z: 5% (born 2001–2020)

There's a wall of worry about the difficulty of integrating Gen Z into the workplace and what it means for global economic, technological and societal progress. According to Jodie Foster (The Silence of the Lambs) in the Guardian, Gen Z are 'really annoying, especially in the workplace'. The new norm is 'nah, I'm not feeling it today, I'm gonna come in at 10.30'. Interesting. Hollywood creates the conditions and then gets upset when the chickens come home to roost.

It's not an issue of qualifications or intellect: this generation is getting ever higher academic marks (grade inflation snark aside). The UK has already achieved Tony Blair's aspiration of having more than 50% of school-leavers into higher education (2017). In 2022 he was asking for 60% by 2030 and 70% by 2040. The Department of Education has described this as a blend between academic and vocational, but a new Labour government will be under a great deal of pressure to resile.

You might not expect a business like ours to be a hotbed of educational policy discussion, but we represent an experiment in the value of vocational qualifications versus a university degree. This is particularly true of 'learn-how-to-learn' classical subjects as opposed to, say, an accounting degree. If you were to ask our youngsters about the value of the vocational (accounting is a blend, investment likewise) versus graduate, you'd get some who think university added little beyond having a good time. In contrast, those who joined the workforce were obviously salaried, lived at home, learned on the job and were qualified by their early 20s. Some are now buying

homes with the money they didn't spend on education, student loans and beer. The irony? Doing the apprenticeship all counts towards a degree anyway – if you deem the extra qualification to be of use. In many cases job experience quickly supersedes post-nominals.

The same applies to all sorts of other finance-related jobs like company secretarial, fund and trust administration; so too plumbers, carpenters, electricians, IT professionals, policemen, airline pilots and civil servants. The only drawback for an employer is the inevitable call of the road after all that time qualifying. Sometimes people leave permanently, but sabbaticals also work.

This is my point. Guernsey is a knowledge economy – arguably even more so than the UK – but that knowledge does not have to come via an undergraduate degree. There are all sorts of options to learn that are more suitable than the standard degree (sometimes padded-out with a 'not sure what I'm doing' Masters). The one thing that does separate school-leavers from graduates, however, is that the former are straight into the world of work. One where not bothering to turn up (or not contributing) will mean uncomfortable meetings with managers and HR. It also affects your pay.

There will be many who dismiss this as a slight on younger generations and the education system. It is neither. The UK has institutions of higher learning that can hold their heads up in any global comparison and it would be churlish to dismiss their contribution. Our experience of Generations Y and Z (we have academy trainees as young as 17) is that they are intelligent, motivated, curious and fun – and both can chew through professional qualifications like candy. Of course, their view of the world is bound to differ from that of us old-timers. Don't forget, long Covid effects apply to education as they do health.

The insidiousness of the echo chamber that informs our view of the world is a lot to cope with when you're still learning your place in it. While 'quiet quitting' has gained traction with Millennial and Zoomer influencers, I suspect that most of their consumers have been sensible enough to dial it down in the workplace – aware that the 'big talk' is as much about the nature of their TikTok-dictated social scene than it is a design for life.

As always in our meanderings, you might wonder what any of this has to do with investing. The glib answer is everything and nothing. The challenge is working out which applies where!

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RETIREMENT PLANNING – IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT THE PENSION

BY PAUL MCCORMICK, SENIOR FINANCIAL ADVISER AT GOWER

If you're an employer in Guernsey and Alderney, you will be aware of need to provide a pension scheme for your employees from July this year, depending on the size of your firm. If you are yet to choose a pension provider for this, you should also consider that there are pension providers that can provide additional benefits for your staff, rather than just the standard pension schemes.

As reliance on the traditional States 'old age pension' diminishes, ensuring that we each have enough to retire on is now shared by the employer and the employee, through secondary pensions. While the majority of this falls upon the employee, the employer can certainly assist by offering support, in addition to the obligatory financial contributions, along the way. In addition to having a pension, it is important that savers set goals, consider other areas of financial planning and review their financial plan regularly.

EMPLOYER CHOICE

There are a number of pension schemes available to employers, in what is now a highly competitive market. There is the Your Island Pension (YIP) scheme offered by the States of Guernsey, and a range of corporate schemes operated by private companies with differing levels of features, benefits and, of course, service. Some companies offer just the pension scheme, while others provide a wide range of financial planning services to help employees plan their lives financially. You should carefully consider what's best for your staff, to ensure that they have access to services that add value to the pension itself.

HOLISTIC FINANCIAL ADVICE AND RETIREMENT FORECASTING

Having a pension is just one part of overall financial planning as we all have short, medium and long-term financial goals. These can range from saving

up for a deposit on a house, applying for a mortgage, taking out life insurance to protect your loved ones, or indeed setting goals for retirement.

Your employees will need to know how much to save up to allow them to provide a meaningful fund to live on in retirement. I always get asked 'How much do I need to be able to retire?' While there is a 'magic number' it is different for each person I speak to. A Gower Retirement Forecast can help the saver set realistic goals and focus on how to achieve them.

OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

In the competitive world of recruitment and staff retention, it is more important than ever for employers to offer staff added value 'employee benefits' such as; health insurance, income protection and life insurance, all of which can help with the overall holistic financial planning that employees need.

CHOOSE A PENSION WITH ADDED VALUE BENEFITS

Employers have the opportunity to give staff a helping hand by choosing a secondary pension that provides these added value areas as standard, providing a financial 'full service'. At Gower, our team of qualified financial advisers can advise employers and employees on the most appropriate benefits to help with setting and achieving financial goals. While the pension is often central to this, there are many other things to consider along the way.

If you would like to know more about the Gower approved secondary pension scheme or the other added value financial services we can offer, please contact me via email paul.mccormick@gower.gg or telephone 700155 to speak to either myself, or one of our team of qualified advisers.



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I'M AN ISLANDER

BY BEX GOATER, DIRECTOR AND FINANCIAL ADVISER
AT NETWORK INSURANCE & FINANCIAL PLANNING

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I have lived in Guernsey for over a decade now, but it felt like home from the day I landed here. Our island charmed me with its warm weather, safe surroundings and, of course, the endless, beautiful sea views. I also loved the fact that everyone seemed to know everyone. It took me a while, but now when I walk down the High Street, I too say hello to a number of people on my travels.

However, there is one thing about Guernsey that can be a challenge upon moving here, and that is the differences compared to the UK. Not that it is challenging to get used to island life; rather to find out what you need to know.

I think many non-islanders (or even new islanders) are aware that our tax system is not the same as that in the UK. But there are also other differences, such as the structure of the Government, our healthcare system, pensions and benefits system and, of course, the filter in turn (which is wonderful). It was also a shock to discover there was no McDonalds!

And while much of the information is available online once you know where to look, it isn't overly easily when you first get here, particularly in relation to financial differences.

One challenge I faced at the start of my career as a financial adviser was finding out Guernsey-specific information. Not the headline rules that apply to all, as these are relatively easily found; but the niche 'applies to one client every five years' kind of information.

Online research of any topic will generally lead you to details and information relating to our Mainland friends, which makes sense since said rules apply to around 67 million people. Our rules apply to only 63,000 people, and even inserting 'Guernsey' in the search function doesn't always yield results.

Why am I writing about this? Well, I have realised the importance of our local advisers to those who are new (and old) to the island. Such advisers have built up a wealth of Guernsey-specific knowledge – gathered from Government resources, case studies, industry contacts and the asking of many questions over the years.

Having now worked in financial advice for a decade, I can answer most questions I get from any newcomer straight away. I also have a pack of information that I know is immediately useful for all newbies, about topics that they may have not even considered when relocating.

I still recall when I moved to Guernsey that I was told there was no NHS, and to me this translated to no public health service at all. I imagined dramatic events unfolding, similar to those US-based medical dramas, where patients are forced to leave the hospital, or trading a kidney to afford care.

I now know that this is not the case, and most secondary health care is provided by the States, including excellent and inclusive maternity services. That said, with one hospital on the island, private health insurance is generally worth considering for those who can afford it.

Our different tax rules can impact upon ongoing suitability of investments and bank accounts, so these should be reviewed when moving to the island. While some UK investments may remain as an option, there may be offshore based investments that are much more tax efficient for a non-UK resident.

In addition, some insurance products (including life insurance), that may have been purchased when living in the UK, may not be valid to Guernsey residents. It would be sensible to check these to ensure any future claim would be valid, and consider new policies, if not.

Pensions also need to be considered, both in the short term and longer term, and it is likely that contributions into non-Guernsey pensions should be ceased after a while, or they become tax inefficient.

And these are just some of the areas that differ; there are of course many more considerations.

So, what would I recommend to a new island resident? Well, I would suggest initially visiting an independent financial adviser and insurance broker. They will be able to review your financial situation and existing plans holistically and then, if required, assist with making changes, or setting up new plans suitable for the new island.

Network Insurance & Financial Planning Limited can offer holistic independent financial and insurance advice, so if you're new(ish) to Guernsey and fancy a free consultation, please get in touch with us at advice@network.gg or on 01481 701400 and one of our qualified advisers will be delighted to chat with you through our island's quirks.

I still miss McDonalds though!



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NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

FORT'S CEO, GRAHAM MCCORMACK, EXPLAINS WHY NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME TO UPDATE THE BUSINESS'S IMAGE



WHY A BRAND REFRESH?

In an era of rapid change and global challenges, we understand the pivotal role offshore fiduciary services play in shaping our clients' success. The brand refresh is not just a visual update, but a reflection of Fort's commitment to staying at the forefront of industry trends. Fort is reaffirming its position as a trusted partner of fiduciary services, embracing change and innovation while upholding the core values that have defined the company for over 50 years.

AND WHAT ARE THOSE CORE VALUES?

When I joined Fort as CEO last year, one of the first things I did was invest time with every staff member and one of my questions was – what are the core values of Fort? It was clear very quickly that the strength of Fort's business lies in its independence, continuity of personalised service, and being a true people first business. This carries through the brand refresh – strength in progress; strength in independence; strength in connection; and strength in execution.

WHY IS THE BRAND REFRESH BEING LAUNCHED NOW?

Fort is celebrating its 50th anniversary and we have embarked on a new growth strategy and part of this plan is to develop Fort's brand awareness. Our independence presents a significant opportunity to grow our client and staff base and stepping up our brand profile is helping ensure we achieve those growth ambitions.

TELL US ABOUT THE DESIGN AND MESSAGING IN FORT'S NEW LOOK BRAND

We partnered with Potting Shed and wanted the new look brand to be an evolution of the existing brand. The Fort logo represents stability and strength, but with the new cinema 4D visuals we have developed the values into the brand to show Fort is independent, dynamic and individual.

The core brand message is strength in progress – this statement encapsulates Fort's overarching ethos of fostering and enduring growth and innovation. We also have three other key messages: strength in independence – this key message accentuates Fort's autonomous, flexible approach to delivering tailored solutions amidst global challenges; strength

in connection – this message underscores the importance of personalised services and strong interpersonal relationships in delivering quality services; and strength in execution – this message highlights Fort's profound expertise and effective strategies that ensure tangible, valuable outcomes for clients.

WHY IS THIS INVESTMENT IMPORTANT?

Digital presence provides marketing possibilities and that delivers brand visibility and growth opportunities. Fort has a great story to tell as a business and having a strong digital presence enhances the credibility and trust in Fort as a fiduciary services provider and employer. Potting Shed has brought our values to life in the presentation of our brand and this is now our platform for growth.

SO WHAT LIES AHEAD IN 2024?

Fort will be continuing its 50th anniversary celebrations and the brand refresh will be used to develop and drive many of our growth initiatives. We have invested significantly into new offices in Alderney and these will offer a modern and dynamic work place, with a fully kitted out gym being part of the offering. These offices went live at the end of January 2024. We are also investing in modernising our Guernsey office and together we will have modern offices that encapsulate our people first ethos – we want our people to work in the best possible environment as that fosters excellence in what we do as a business.

Our independence continues to be our strongest selling point and we are investing to capitalise on that. We continue to see a huge opportunity for independent fiduciary providers. We are also investing in our technology platform and operating model, and our people. We want our people to have the best tools to do their job, to work in the best environment, but to also have the package, flexibility, development and support to ensure they are achieving their personal goals, which in turn ensures Fort is achieving its strategy.

The brand refresh is the kick start to our 2024 plans. We now have a brand that represents what we are, a forward thinking fiduciary services provider that is investing for the future and growing.

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GREAT LOOKING CLOTHES THAT ARE KIND TO THE PLANET



BY STUART TROALIC, PRODUCTION MANAGER AT PRINTED IN GUERNSEY

ADVERTORIAL

It's an exciting time for the printing industry! As I have commented in previous articles, branded clothing is a powerful marketing weapon for businesses, clubs and causes, and we have some amazing, innovative processes to help your stakeholders promote your organisation in an attractive, effective and eco-friendly manner.

In 2024, more and more companies are focusing on their carbon footprint. Not only is it a good idea to avoid shipping products from the other side of the world and keep it local, but ensuring the materials you use are sustainable makes perfect sense too.

In a world where consumer choices increasingly influence the future of our planet, ethical and sustainable practices have become paramount. It's not just about the actual fashion anymore – it's the material and its effect on the environment that is just as important.

2024 marks a pivotal year where conscious fashion takes centre stage and Printed in Guernsey is well-positioned to offer a large range of environmentally friendly clothing for personalisation.

Technology is a wonderful enabler in this field and our investment in machinery, which makes the printing process easier and faster, is good news for customers and for the planet. Alongside our embroidery machines we have recently installed a new press that, rather than produce vinyls for hand weeding (you throw away the bit you don't want to print), we can now print our own 'transfers'. This new technique is much quicker and has shown us some amazing results in colour reproduction and finish.

But, in this age of recycling and re-using, a very exciting part of the process is the material available to us. We have all read the horror stories of plastic waste clogging our oceans and killing our wildlife; well, this process is a very big step in the right direction, making a significant step in cleaning up the planet. These materials for making clothing are made from pre-consumer and post-consumer waste materials like discarded textiles, fibres, other synthetic materials and in many cases – old water bottles!

Rather than being discarded they are collected, processed and spun into new yarns, and are a great way to reduce waste and environmental impact as

they require less energy and water to produce than virgin materials and can actually help to extend the life of clothing. Take, for example, our new range of recycled t-shirts, each made from nine 550ml plastic bottles. These shirts are made to the highest quality and feature Oeko-Tex certification.

The process is simple. Used plastic bottles and waste are collected then shredded into flakes. These flakes are then processed further to create fibre (it looks like raw cotton) – these fibres are then spun in the conventional way to produce yarn that is then knitted or woven into fabric.

This new range uses Oeko-Tex certified fabrics which are completely free from harmful chemicals and safe for human use. To attain Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification, the fabric has been tested and certified to be free from harmful levels of more than 100 substances known to be detrimental to human health.

Of course, there are other ranges of basic-level low price clothing available. But if you want to ensure that you are buying with the next generation in mind, make sure you ask us about the ranges at Printed in Guernsey.

And while you are on the phone, ask us about our functional products. For example, we can source shirts that offer sun protection, clothing that is made from insect bite-proof fabric and a great range of reflective and safety clothing.

So by sourcing your branded clothing from Printed in Guernsey, you can contribute to the fight against global warming by choosing innovative and sustainable products with pin-sharp imagery and logos to promote your brand. It's a 'win – win' for your company and for the planet.

For more information, please visit our website at www.printedinguernsey.com or call us on 01481 259188.





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IS THE HOUSING MARKET BACK ON TRACK?

BY ANTONIA THOMAS, SWOFFERS NEGOTIATOR

With interest rates rising at a rapid rate and the post-Covid boom seeming like a distant memory, 2023 was not looking like it would be a good year for the housing market in Guernsey. So, what actually happened? Swoffers negotiator Antonia Thomas takes a look.

As we entered 2023, the fastest rise in interest rates for more than 70 years – combined with a deepening cost of living crisis – significantly reduced people's affordability, and certainly dampened confidence, threatening to derail the housing market.

But demand remained resilient and, breath held, the sales kept coming, albeit slower than in previous years. As we teetered further into spring, it became clear that the volume of Local Market transactions was down on both the previous quarter and the same period in 2022. While movement was sluggish, prices remained relatively stable, dipping only a few percent (down 4% from the previous quarter); a colleague succinctly described the inevitable adjustment in prices as more of a 'parachute' down, painting a much more genteel picture of the situation.

Spring turned to summer (no one told the weather), King Charles became official, food price inflation finally started to fall, and Q2 figures showed that transaction levels were up (175 from 113), but the average house price fell for the second consecutive quarter, down from £613,942 to £600,836. Still no sign of that predicted derailment though, with prices still around 45% higher than they had been in 2018.

As the summer progressed, Guernsey's attention turned to hosting the NatWest International Island Games, where our shooters, swimmers and runners did us proud, and the success of the Games kept morale going through the August washout. September brought respite in the form of a gorgeous Indian summer and the welcome news that after 14 back-to-back rises, the Bank of England held the base rate at 5.25%. Was this beginning of the comedown? The consensus was that rates had peaked.

The red herring release of the Q3 statistics in November indicated that house prices had incredibly gone up 7.8%; on closer inspection, a low number of

transactions (138 – 37 fewer than the previous period) combined with a handful of high-value sales skewed the figures and this was not a true reflection of the whole market.

Regardless, there was – and continues to be – a sense of optimism that we have at least peaked on the interest rate front. Monetary policy in the UK will dictate a slow reduction in rates, and there is the further impact of recent global events to consider, but there are certainly green shoots in the mortgage market, maybe not yet above the ground.

Ultimately, the 2023 crash that Guernsey didn't experience was underpinned by a shortage of property available, rather than any significant strengthening of buyer demand. However, we are taking comfort in the knowledge that rates have surely peaked and that confidence is returning, and with it demand and stock levels too, completing a much more positive outlook for 2024.

...THERE WAS – AND CONTINUES TO BE – A SENSE OF OPTIMISM THAT WE HAVE AT LEAST PEAKED ON THE INTEREST RATE FRONT.





ABOVE: EARLY MORNING YOGA AS THE SUN RISES OVER HERM AND SARK. ABOVE RIGHT: CYCLING TO A PICNIC IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. RIGHT: SURFING AT VAZON. ©LOCATE GUERNSEY.

WHY GUERNSEY?

This time of year is a busy time for relocations to Guernsey. Some might be looking to leave the UK ahead of the start of the new tax year, while others may have had time to reflect over the festive period and are looking for a change for themselves and their family.

Whatever the initial motivation, Guernsey can offer a safe, hospitable and beautiful environment in which to make a home. In this article, Lily Prus, Relationship Manager at Locate Guernsey, shares five reasons why Guernsey is the ideal destination for a relocation.

1. Proximity to the UK – While geographically closer to France, Guernsey is English-speaking and has the same time zone as the UK. At just 40-minutes' flying time from

London Gatwick and with frequent flights to many UK hubs, travelling back and forth to the UK for work or pleasure is very straightforward.

2. Envidable work/life balance – Guernsey residents live life to the full, they work hard but make time to relax and have fun. Forget long train journeys or hours spent on the motorway, at just 25 square miles, the average commute time in Guernsey is just 20 minutes. Residents make the most of the extra leisure time enjoying the island's outdoorsy lifestyle, experiencing its excellent restaurants or trying one of the many sports or hobby groups.
3. Straightforward tax system – As an independent, self-governing jurisdiction, Guernsey has developed its

own straightforward system of taxation. Income tax is levied at a flat rate of 20%, with attractive tax caps available, and there are no capital gains or inheritance taxes. Corporation tax for most businesses is 0%, although some will pay 10% or 20%.

4. Safe and stable – With a community-driven population and low crime rates, Guernsey provides the ideal destination to raise a family. With a world-class financial, professional and legal services centre, those relocating to the island with businesses also have complete peace of mind.
5. Good for the whole family – The island offers both high-quality education and healthcare systems. Islanders enjoy clean fresh air and a stunning natural environment.



WHATEVER THE INITIAL MOTIVATION,
GUERNSEY CAN OFFER A SAFE, HOSPITABLE AND
BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO MAKE A HOME.

From family walks along the beach to morning cliff runs, and weekends spent island hopping or exploring the island's coves, the whole family will quickly fall in love with all that Guernsey offers.

Could Guernsey be the ideal location for you and your family? Relocation to Guernsey can be very straightforward, due to the island's two-tier property market. While the Local Market is reserved for those with a familial connection to the island or those holding Employment Permits, the Open Market provides a straightforward route to residency.

Holders of UK/BNO passports or with Right of Abode in the UK can simply come to Guernsey and buy or rent an Open Market home. This allows them to live in Guernsey indefinitely if they wish to, and they can work or set up a

business, or simply live off savings and investments. Visa routes are also available.

Locate Guernsey is a government agency responsible for promoting Guernsey as a destination of choice for relocation and providing support throughout the relocation process.

If you would like to find out more, please get in touch with the Locate Guernsey team:
www.locateguernsey.com
enquiries@locateguernsey.com
+44 (0) 1481 220011.



To start your journey,
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IMAGE ©ISTOCKPHOTO

WHAT IS CORPORATE YACHT OWNERSHIP AND WHEN IS IT USED?

Owning a yacht or superyacht should be about sitting back, relaxing and spending time on board with family and friends. Bruce Maltwood, Director of Praxis Yacht Services in Guernsey, looks at how corporate yacht ownership can help owners make the most of their precious downtime.

Corporate yacht ownership has been utilised for over 50 years and, although some perceive it simply as a way to own a yacht, using special purpose vehicles (SPVs) is an essential consideration for efficient and effective yacht ownership.

A company has traits similar to an engine, which needs precise and accurate installation with mountings, drive connections, oils, electronics and instrumentation, all installed, matched, calibrated and checked. Engines require ongoing checks and maintenance, servicing, winterising, etc. All these aspects must be undertaken by specialists, not just in general engineering terms but specifically for the make and model. Failure to do so can be catastrophic and very costly, both in terms of time and money.

For a company, the type, jurisdiction, directors, funding, and shareholding arrangements must be carefully considered at the outset and managed thereafter. Each jurisdiction has its own rules and regulations that govern the formation and administration of companies, so a provider with the requisite expertise must be engaged.

The most popular SPVs are limited liability companies and partnerships from various jurisdictions, each with its own characteristics and benefits, which should be measured alongside the beneficial owner's personal circumstances.

With the yacht often moving from country to country, it is also vital that the appropriate SPV is positioned and maintained to meet each location's varying requirements, as well as any changes in circumstances by the beneficial owner. It must also be administered correctly in terms of management and control, funding, record keeping and filings. Failure to do so can have significant tax consequences for the beneficial owner.

While corporate yacht ownership can first appear unnecessary and inconvenient, establishing the correct structure at the outset will pay dividends in the long term.

IS CORPORATE YACHT OWNERSHIP SUITABLE?

Corporate yacht ownership is not for everyone, and there are situations where owning a yacht directly in the name of the beneficial owner is the right choice. Each structure must be considered on its own merits based on the beneficial owner's aspirations and the potential benefits. Professional advice should be sought as every yacht is unique, and a one-size-fits-all approach can backfire. It is also better to ensure the correct SPV is in place at the outset than to try to reset later, as this can be a drawn-out and expensive exercise.

Depending on the tax residency of the beneficial owner, the positioning of a corporate entity in a suitable jurisdiction can impact the beneficial owner's personal tax/estate planning objectives. Discussing any potential yacht ownership structure with the beneficial owner's tax adviser or accountant before establishment is essential.

Corporate yacht ownership can also provide other benefits, including personal estate planning, asset ring-fencing, flag qualification and chartering solutions.

EXPERTISE

The ownership and operation of a yacht can be highly complex, so providing a corporate entity with directors who possess yachting expertise to look after the beneficial owner's best interests is critical.

As one of the only regulated services in the yachting industry, directors have a regulatory responsibility to act in the best interests of the beneficial owner, with dire consequences for failure to do so. This adds comfort and peace of mind to beneficial owners, knowing that a well-established and regulated business is looking after their interests.

Bruce works closely with owners, captains, lawyers, family offices, trust companies and yacht brokers, advising them on the most appropriate ownership structures for the type and planned usage of the yacht.

Bruce joined Praxis Yacht Services (formerly Sarnia Yachts) in 2006 and has over 30 years of experience in the yachting industry.

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PIERRE JEHAN, SALES AND
MARKETING DIRECTOR

THE HIDDEN COSTS OF INADEQUATE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Technology plays an increasingly critical role in businesses today. Having a reliable and competent IT provider is no longer a luxury, but a necessity.

In fact, the consequences of sticking with the wrong IT partner can often be more detrimental than not having one at all. It's crucial to understand the risks associated with poor technology solutions and the potential costs they may impose on your business.

Here, Resolution IT's Sales and Marketing Director, Pierre Jehan, delves into the top five ways your technology partner could be draining your resources and stifling your growth.

FREQUENT DOWNTIME: AN EXPENSIVE STANDSTILL

Any prolonged period of service unavailability can be catastrophic to any business. It disrupts your operations, leads to revenue losses, and tarnishes your hard-earned reputation. It's also essential to consider the hidden costs associated with such downtime. Even marginal improvements in your staff's productivity can yield significant enhancements in the services you offer. By partnering with a reliable IT provider, you gain access to systems designed to minimise downtime, swiftly resolve issues and empower your staff to maximise the potential of their technology tools.

FAILURE TO MEET CLIENT DEMANDS: UNHAPPY CLIENTS, LOST OPPORTUNITIES

Your technology partner's ability directly impacts the service you're able to provide to your clients. As technology forms the bedrock of your business operations, it is imperative to have a partner who understands your need to deliver time-sensitive, reliable and resilient services to your customers. Anything less than stellar customer service from your IT provider can lead to unhappy clients, missed opportunities and, ultimately, a dent in your bottom line.

LOW STAFF PRODUCTIVITY AND MORALE: THE HIGH COST OF INEFFICIENCY

Slow or malfunctioning IT systems hinder your staff's productivity and dampen morale, especially if your day-to-day tasks heavily rely on technology. Your managed service provider should offer reliable and efficient systems that empower your team to work seamlessly and effectively. Furthermore, consider the image your business portrays when your systems fail to function properly. The statements your team makes to clients, attributing disruptions to their service to your

technology, can cast a negative light on your business and imply a lack of adaptability. Additionally, younger staff members have high expectations when it comes to technology, and meeting those expectations is crucial for attracting and retaining top talent.

GREATER RISK OF SECURITY BREACHES: PROTECTING YOUR REPUTATION AND FINANCES

In an era where cyber threats loom large, security breaches pose a significant risk to businesses. Your IT provider must deliver robust security measures to safeguard your sensitive data, mitigate financial losses, ensure regulatory compliance, and preserve your hard-earned reputation. Inadequate security infrastructure can expose your financial services company to devastating consequences, both financially and in terms of trust among your clients.

POTENTIAL FINANCIAL LOSSES: THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT

Financial losses can stem from various sources, including downtime, cyber breaches and additional expenses incurred due to IT issues. However, it's not just the large-scale costs of system failures or cyberattacks that can erode your profitability. The hidden costs, such as wasted time, decreased productivity, inefficiencies resulting from inadequate IT training, slow or outdated systems, and suboptimal applications can accumulate over time, leading to significant financial setbacks. When evaluating IT partners, transparency in pricing, value for money, and accountability for services rendered are essential factors to consider.

MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE TO DRIVE YOUR BUSINESS FORWARD

The consequences of remaining with an ill-suited IT provider can be far-reaching and detrimental to your business. It's crucial to conduct a thorough evaluation of your current technology partner to determine if they are propelling your business forward or holding you back. By partnering with a reputable and forward-thinking IT provider, you can unlock the full potential of technology to drive growth, enhance customer satisfaction, improve staff productivity, fortify security, and safeguard your financial wellbeing.

HOW WE CAN HELP

If you believe it may be time to switch IT providers, our experienced team is ready to offer no-obligation advice and support tailored to your business. Reach out to us for a complimentary consultation.



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NEW CEO FOR CITIZENS ADVICE GUERNSEY

Citizens Advice Guernsey has appointed Ali Marquis as its new chief executive officer. Ali previously spent two years with the charity until 2019 as its deputy CEO, trained as a support worker and led the charity's research work.

With a background in HR in both the public and private sectors as well as more than 15 years' experience in senior positions in the third sector, she is well-equipped to lead the Guernsey branch into its next era.

'It's incredible to lead such a great team of volunteers and staff, including working with the voluntary board of directors,' she said. 'My favourite aspect is being part of a big team that genuinely wants to make a difference and is willing to give up their time to help others. It's very satisfying to help people find solutions to their problems.'

In her new role, she will oversee the organisation's strategic direction and vision. She leads a team of dedicated staff and volunteers and aims to adapt the service to face financial challenges and volunteer availability. Ali aspires to increase the number of volunteers and expand service hours and accessibility to clients by enhancing its service offering to support the charity's broad spectrum of clients and ever-increasing complexity of enquiries.

STONEHAGE FLEMING APPOINTS NEW HEAD OF OFFICE



Stonehage Fleming has appointed a new head of family office Guernsey. Gillian Ralston Jordan joins with more than three decades of experience in both law and the financial services

industry. She is a practising solicitor regulated by the Law Society of Scotland and a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and a Notary Public in Scotland.

She will have overall responsibility for managing the family office activities in Guernsey, working closely with clients, third parties, and the wider Stonehage Fleming Group, as well as developing new business, and will be a member of the family office executive committee.

'I am delighted to join Stonehage Fleming and lead the family office activities in Guernsey,' she said. 'I look forward to working closely with the team to continue to deliver Stonehage Fleming's best in class services and advice for our clients and to contributing to the continued growth and success of the organisation.'

Ms Ralston Jordan will report to Greg Harris, partner and head of family office, British Islands, Stonehage Fleming. 'It is a pleasure to welcome Gillian to Stonehage Fleming as head of family office in Guernsey,' he said. 'Gillian is a seasoned and accomplished professional who will bring invaluable insight and experience to our existing highly talented team in Guernsey. We look forward to welcoming her to the group, as we continue our commitment to being the distinguished independent adviser to the world's leading families and wealth creators.'

POLYGON MAKES TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS

Polygon Collective has made two new appointments at Vantage Insurance Brokers as part of its on-going strategic expansion plans.

Liz Mills and Sarah Hodgson join the Guernsey-based business as senior placement and relationship executive, and account executive, respectively. Ms Mills brings with her a wealth of insurance experience and expertise across the Channel Islands, UK and internationally.

She has worked on bespoke client-led insurance solutions in markets ranging from technology and life science to commercial businesses. Ms Hodgson, who is currently progressing with her chartered insurance qualifications, has insurance sector experience primarily from within the finance function.

'The appointment of Liz and Sarah is a fantastic development for the Vantage brand, enabling the



L-R: Sarah Hodgson, Grant Mitchenall, Natasha Spinks, Polygon Collective chairman Martin Belcher, Liz Mills and Vantage Insurance Brokers managing director Henry Mowbray.

business to broaden the specialist and bespoke insurance solutions further into the financial and corporate offshore services sector,' said Vantage managing director Henry Mowbray.



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NEW ASSURANCE LEAD FOR CBO



CBO has promoted Rudi Le Roux to head of assurance, having recently extended its assurance services into a dedicated service line. Mr Le Roux has more than 20 years' experience

in executive roles within the financial industry, and has an in-depth understanding of risk management and how operational, finance, compliance and risk functions work together.

'I'm delighted to be CBO's new head of assurance,' he said. 'We are not starting from scratch, but building the assurance service line from a solid foundation supported by the other established service lines. Assurance is part of every process in every business, not just regulated businesses. We are here to help enhance and mature the assurance activities to ensure effective oversight for those making key strategic and risk decisions. CBO does this to the very highest standards, and I am pleased to be a key part of further extending our excellent service.'

MANAGEMENT TEAM EXPANDS AT CONNIE'S CARERS



Connie's Carers has expanded its management team with the appointment of Sophie Burbridge as business development manager. Ms Burbridge was educated at the Ladies' College,

Guernsey, then studied social work at Winchester University, graduating with a first class honours degree.

She returned to Guernsey and worked for Health and Social Care as a social worker within adult community businesses. In her new role, she will adopt a hands-on approach caring directly for the clients as well as further developing the business and the services it provides.

Connie's Carers was established by Paula Burbridge in 2007, employing more than 60 carers and providing services to many islanders needing additional care and support, enabling them to remain at home longer.



L-R: Natalie Le Page and Tilly Barton-Strong.

NEW HIRES AT BUZZ

Two new hires have been made at Buzz Creative Studio following the growth of its portfolio.

Natalie Le Page has been appointed marketing executive while College of Further Education graduate Tilly Barton-Strong, who was awarded a distinction in her two-year art and design course, has joined as marketing junior.

Marketing manager Jodie Trott welcomed the duo to the company's growing team. 'We look forward to seeing how their skillsets evolve,' she said. 'Fresh perspectives are always welcomed by the company and both Natalie and Tilly bring different skillsets and experiences that will only benefit our portfolio of clients.' The studio celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

HEAD OF COMPLIANCE AT PEREGRINE



Peregrine Wealth has appointed Lientjie Booysen as head of compliance. A fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accounts and a fellow of the International Compliance

Association with a professional postgraduate diploma in governance, risk and compliance, Ms Booysen has more than 25 years' experience in the financial services industry and started specialising in risk and compliance in 2021.

In her new role, she will be responsible for the compliance and governance functions of Peregrine's Guernsey office. 'I look forward to working with the team at Peregrine Wealth to uphold an excellent standard of work,' she said. 'The Peregrine team have strong plans to grow their offering and team, and I'm excited to be involved in that journey.'



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A SUSTAINABLE SPACE

HATE WASTE? WANT TO BE AS GREEN AS POSSIBLE? IF YOU'RE PLANNING A NEW KITCHEN OR BEDROOM THEN YOU CAN BE MINDFUL, WITH SANDRA ROBINSON.

What's the first thing you think of when planning a new kitchen? The design? A new central island? The colours? The cost?

Be honest, how far up the list of 'wants' is sustainability? For Sandra Robinson, it's something that has been a 'must have' for many years. She's not just jumped on the green bandwagon, she was one of its early drivers.

'Quite simply, we take the responsibility of worrying about sustainability away from our customers, so their minds can be put at ease in regard to looking after the environment,' she says.

'Your sustainable journey starts with us, right from the word go - all designs are delivered electronically with the opportunity to sit upstairs in the studio with a coffee to enjoy a 3D view of your new kitchen or bedroom. Once a customer has confirmed their design, a welcome pack is emailed, detailing fitting dates and other important information. No wasted paper here!'

When choosing the design, customers can rest assured that Sandra and her team have already sourced sustainable suppliers.

For example, main supplier Masterclass Kitchens has a zero-landfill policy, among a long list of other green features. Worktops have also become more environmentally friendly, with less or zero resin from some leading suppliers. Dekton from Cosentino is a totally carbon-neutral product, excellent functional beauty for any kitchen project.

'I hate waste and I've always recommended that customers seek to either sell on or give away their kitchen prior to us fitting a new one,' says Sandra.

'There are many online sites where kitchens can be advertised and not everybody can afford a new one. It really helps save landfill if the kitchens can be given a new home and put to use.'

Once Sandra's fitters move in, they arrive with recycling bags for plastic, offcuts and cardboard to be separated and filled as the new kitchen is unpacked.

WOOD AND WATER

Sandra's prediction for kitchens in 2024 and beyond is a return to a more natural wood finish.

'I think oak and walnut, with a raw-wood finish rather than a painted one, will become popular again,' she says.

'Our alternative supplier English Hardwood, also based in the UK, meets all of these needs perfectly, including solid wood dovetail drawer boxes and plywood cabinets if preferred.'

Sandra notes that many people are installing a Quooker tap and Cube, the tap that does it all, regardless of whether they're having a full refurb.

'A Quooker tap not only uses less electricity than a kettle, but people only take what water they need' she says.

'The Cube provides sparkling and still, chilled water on tap, reducing plastic and further waste. While the initial outlay is more than your standard kitchen tap, the return over its lifetime will be felt many times, especially because water is metered in Guernsey.'

By prioritising sustainability in your kitchen choices, you can contribute to a healthier planet and create a more eco-friendly living space. So, whether you're looking at replacing a tap, some worktops or having a full-blown refurb, Sandra and her team has the sustainability side all sewn up.

Visit the showroom to discuss your exciting project for 2024.



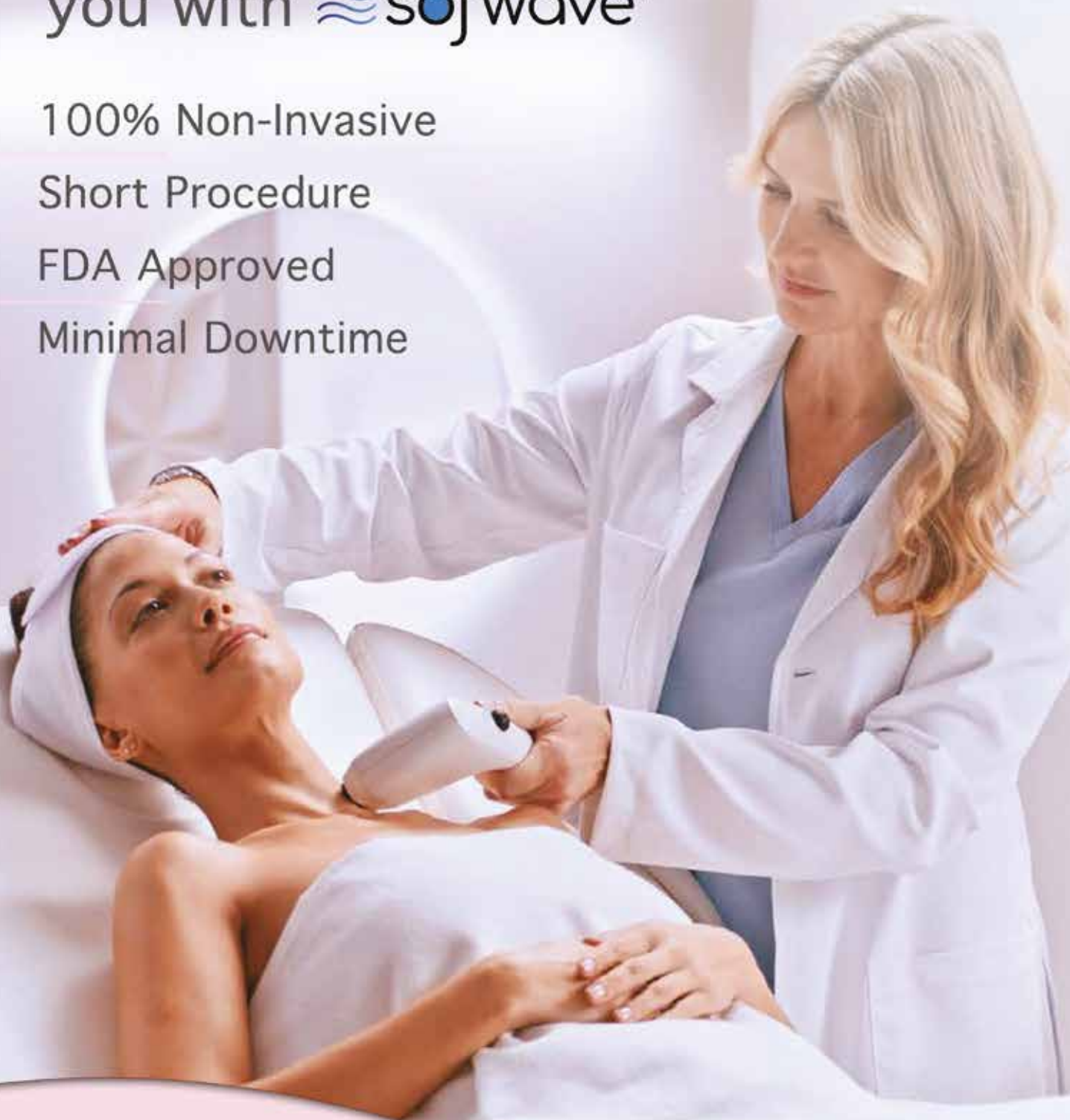
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ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY FOR FINE LINES AND WRINKLES

BY BRONWEN DUDLEY-OWEN OF GUERNSEY MEDISPA

Our skin tells a story of how we have lived our lives... it seems that one day it's soft and smooth and the next, you're avoiding mirrors – not a realistic way forward! Thankfully at Guernsey Medispa we have invested in technology and training that is a genuine gamechanger.

The problem is that as we age, we lose elasticity within our skin. This causes lines and wrinkles, jowls, sagging cheeks, eye bags, and my least favourite – a turkey neck. The production of collagen and elastin begins to decline in our mid-20s, and our levels of these vital proteins decrease approximately one to two per cent per year afterwards. Because of this we notice our skin sagging and losing elasticity when we are in our 30s and 40s.

But before you stare into the abyss let me tell you about Sofwave™. It is the very latest ultrasound technology for addressing fine lines and wrinkles and is suitable for all skin types. Collagen is the primary building block of your body's skin, muscles, bones, tendons and ligaments, and other connective tissues. It is the most abundant protein in the human body, accounting for two-thirds of the dry weight of our skin. It provides structural integrity and connects our skin cells together. Deep within your dermal tissue Sofwave™ stimulates the production of new collagen and elastin.

This loss of elasticity is most notable on the face. That's because our facial muscles work hard to form thousands of expressions every day – smiles, frowns, laughs, cries, sneezes etc. Facial muscles stretch and contract all day long every day. Like a rubber band, our skin snaps back less readily after continued use – skin naturally loses more elasticity as time goes on.

Research shows that around 30% of the proteins in humans are composed of 28 different types of collagen, from type I collagen, in skin, to type II collagen in cartilage. Sofwave™ is an FDA-approved, non-invasive treatment which heats the dermal layers and stimulates the production of new collagen and

elastin fibres. This tightens and tones the skin, as well as reducing lines and wrinkles.

At Guernsey Medispa we champion this treatment as results are extraordinary for a non-surgical procedure, full results being seen after 12 weeks. It is totally non-invasive with minimal discomfort, no downtime and takes just one treatment. A full-face procedure takes around 40 minutes, so you could pop in and get it done during lunchtime. Patients can have the treatment and go back to their daily activities immediately.

Sofwave™'s safety is highly rated with an integrated cooling system which protects the outer layer of skin, enabling the ultrasound to reach the required depth in the dermis for the ideal outcome. Sofwave™ is the only treatment that stimulates elastin production.

Guernsey Medispa is a place where you can enjoy high-quality, world-renowned treatments, without having to leave the island. We are rated as one of the top medispas in the Channel Islands, with a wide range of anti-aging solutions for face and body, alongside the very best body contouring programs.

By using a combination of high-end aesthetic treatments and products woven into a bespoke plan, we aim to make you look gorgeous and improve your self-confidence.

If you want to find out more about Sofwave™ or the EmSculpt NEO®, the revolutionary treatment as used by the Kardashians for breaking down fat cells, then please call us on 01481 720606 or at www.guernseymedispa.com. We are open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday.

(Guernsey Skin & Beauty now trades as Guernsey Medispa)

IT IS THE VERY LATEST ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY FOR ADDRESSING FINE LINES AND WRINKLES AND IS SUITABLE FOR ALL SKIN TYPES.



SPIRIT OF GUERNSEY

NOTHING BEATS A GOOD CANDLE TO ENHANCE A ROOM SETTING OR YOUR MOOD.



When the first Covid lockdown hit in early 2020, Joseph Smith and his partner,

Sarah Vautier, made the unusual move of launching a brand new business, Wined Down Candles.

Joseph's advertising agency was hit hard by lockdown, so the couple looked into what other businesses could be run from home, and came across candle making.

'We were very interested, but totally new to the business,' said Sarah, 'so we knew it was going to be a very steep learning curve.'

A graphic designer by profession, Joseph is a big fan of up-cycling, and decided repurposing wine bottles as candle containers was a great way of using a waste product that would otherwise be just thrown away or broken down and recycled.

Cutting the glass, however, presented some difficulties and was a skill that took some considerable time to learn.

'People were very supportive, and happy to drop off their empties at our gate for me,' he said.

'Fortunately, it seems a lot of wine was consumed during lockdown, so there were plenty bottles for me to practice on...!'

While Joseph honed his glass-cutting skills, Sarah was tasked with deciding which fragrances they would use.

She noticed many candle companies used fragrance oils directly off the shelf, but she was determined to do something different to make their candles stand out.

Eventually, she decided to draw inspiration from Guernsey itself, naming their range of candles after some of the island's most popular and iconic places, and hand-

blending fragrances to reflect the nature of those places.

And so Wined Down candles was born, with a range of 16 unique fragrances, including Sunset at Cobo, South Coast Stroll, Fort Grey in the Mist and Little Chapel Lullaby, to name but a few.

Limited by the lockdown rules, the enterprising pair were obliged to not only make the candles at their home, but sell them from there.

'We already had a quite well-known hedge veg stand that's featured in several adverts for Visit Guernsey and other local companies, so we thought, "why not, let's sell our candles from there, too!"' said Joseph.

The response was so overwhelming that they struggled to keep up with demand, and had people queuing in front of their cottage in the Forest to purchase their products.



‘WE FEEL INCREDIBLY FORTUNATE,’ EXPLAINED JOSEPH, ‘WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE WHAT WE DO AND HAVE MET SOME WONDERFUL PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BECOME LOYAL REPEAT CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS.’

When lockdown ended, they decided to broaden their horizons and started selling their increasingly popular candles at local markets.

The response was incredible, far better than they could have ever imagined

‘It’s a lot of hard work,’ explained Joseph, ‘but incredibly rewarding.’

At the same time, Joseph’s graphic design business started to pick up again, so he decided to prioritise that, and he and Sarah used that time take to consider the brand they had so successfully created and how it could be improved.

‘We wanted something a little sleeker, a product that was more focused on the fragrances and their homage to the island,’ said Sarah.

They kept the same delectable range of fragrances, added four more local Christmas themed

fragrances, and rebranded their candles ‘Spirit of Guernsey’.

In December 2023, they decided to relaunch the range from their home-based candle studio and were delighted at the response, with both new customers and returning customers alike popping in to find the perfect gift or stocking filler.

Now, the creative couple are focusing on expanding their business into local retailers and are in discussion with several who are keen to partner with them.

How do they feel about this unexpected success with a business born out of sheer necessity?

‘We feel incredibly fortunate,’ explained Joseph, ‘we absolutely love what we do and have met some wonderful people, many of whom have become loyal repeat customers and friends.’



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ONCE UPON AN ISLAND



ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY? THEN I'LL TELL YOU A TALE ABOUT A YOUNG WOMAN WHO WROTE AND ILLUSTRATED A BOOK ALL ABOUT GUERNSEY FOLKLORE... BY AMANDA EULENKAMP

Written and illustrated by Penny Dawes, *Once Upon an Island, A Treasury of Guernsey Folklore* is one of those beautiful books to cherish.

The local author/illustrator collaborated closely with Guernsey Arts, Guernsey Museums, Blue Ormer Publishing, VisitGuernsey and the National Trust of Guernsey, with the aim of bringing folk tales, which may otherwise have been lost, to a whole new generation.

During lockdown, Penny came back to the island and went to her Gran's house, who had a copy of Guernsey Folklore by Sir Edgar MacCulloch (an ex-Bailiff of Guernsey), which was published in 1903.

'Penny's energy is engaging,' said Russ Fossey, head of arts development at Guernsey Arts.

The book is a children's version of Guernsey Folklore but the result is much more than just a collection of

stories; there is also an interactive Folklore Trail, with panels situated across the island, for folk to follow.

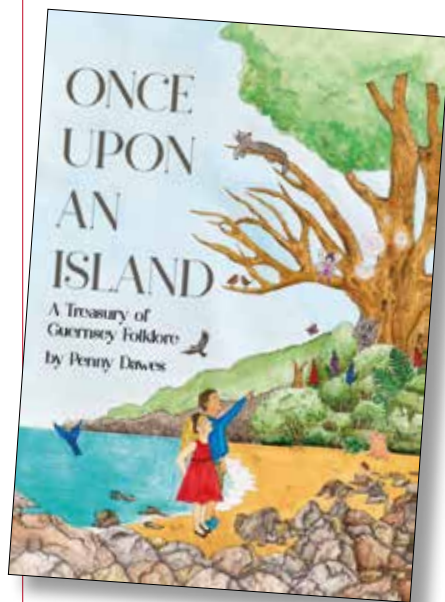
The trail combines being in the exact spot where the tale originated, with seeing the illustration and reading or listening to a dramatic storytelling of the tale (by scanning a QR code).

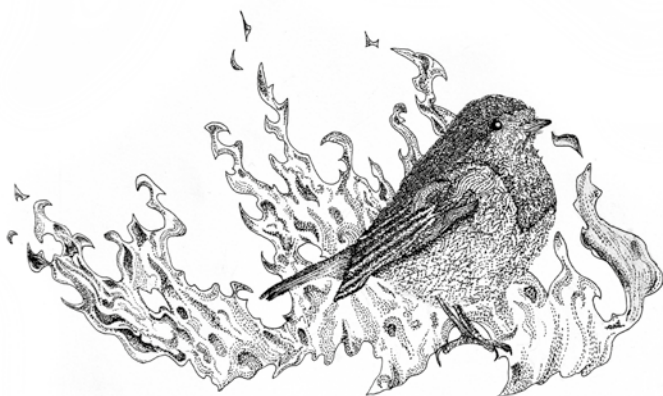
Originally to be in place for just one year, the trail has been extended until 22 October this year, thanks to the assistance of Heritage Services, the National Trust of Guernsey, St Martin's Church Council, Vale Commons, Planning and Peter de Sausmarez. Children can also collect badges for completing the trail.

With a background in interior design, Penny loves creative research and hopefully another book, 'Twice Upon an Island' is in the making.

For now, sit back and enjoy one of her stories (others will feature in other editions of *En Voyage* this year).

*Once Upon An Island,
A Treasury of Guernsey Folklore
by Penny Dawes is £10 and
available at www.blueormer.co.uk*





THE WREN AND THE ROBIN

LÉ RIBET ET LA ROUGE-GORGE

In Guernsey folklore, the robin is of great significance as it is believed that a robin first brought fire to the island.

He carried the fire on a piece of lighted torch in his beak across the water. When he arrived, with his breast-feathers burnt, red and raw, all the other birds were so sorry for him that they each gave him a feather, except the owl who refused. That is why the owl no longer dares show his face by day and only comes out at night.

To this day, the breast of the robin is tinged with red. By bringing fire to the island, this little bird made life possible for the island-ers. After all, who can live without fire? Due to the sacrifices he made, the robin redbreast is one of the favourite birds of the islanders. It is believed to be bad luck if you ill-treat the robin, its nest or eggs.

Another Guernsey country tradition is that the wren brought water to the island. Just like the robin, this bird was also sacred to islanders. They would also protect and respect the wren, its nest and eggs. The ancient druids that lived on Guernsey believed the willow wren to be the king of the birds.

The Origin of the Tale

The tale of the wren and the robin appears to come from global folklore that has trickled into the island over time. The Brothers Grimm fairy tale of The Willow Wren was most certainly an influence on Guernsey folklore regarding these birds. In the tale, all the birds had to choose a ruler, a king of the birds. The birds

gathered together to discuss how they would choose a king. All birds were present from the eagle to the chaffinch, owl, crow, hen, lark, cuckoo, sparrow and many more.

It was decided that whichever bird could fly the highest would become king. The birds fluttered and soared as high as they could. The little birds stood no chance against the larger birds, but no bird could beat the eagle. Once the eagle thought he had flown closest to the sun, he returned back to earth.

However, little did he know that a tiny wren had crept into his breast-feathers to outsmart him. The little wren flew out of the eagle's breast-feathers and, with all his energy, flew higher than the eagle. The wren declared, 'I am King, I am King.'

This trickery angered the birds who decided that the king should actually be chosen by which bird could go furthest underground.

Again, the little wren cheated and slipped down into a mouse hole. The birds decided the owl should guard the mousehole so that the wren couldn't escape and cause more trouble. However, hours had passed and the owl fell asleep, letting the little wren escape.

From that day on the owl never showed himself in daylight again out of fear the other birds would chase him and pluck his feathers. He only flies at night and loves to pursue mice because mouse holes had caused him all this trouble. The Guernsey people believed the lark to be the bird that could fly the highest without cheating like the wren.



LOCAL AUTHOR
AND ILLUSTRATOR,
PENNY DAWES



A STELLAR YEAR FOR GUERNSEY SPORT

2023 was a truly fantastic year for Guernsey sport and arguably one of the most outstanding in the island's sporting history.

The year will long be remembered for the incredible NatWest International Island Games, which returned to Guernsey for the third time. And what a week of sporting action it was, with thousands of people enjoying 14 sports across 25 venues.

It was a spectacle that will live long in the memory and really showed how sport has the power to bring people together. Many of the outstanding team and individual Island Games performances were celebrated at the Guernsey Sports Commission's 2023 Sporting Achievement Awards in January.

The event is a celebration of all the top performers of the year and the judges had a tough task selecting the winners from a record number of nominees.

The main award of the night, the Sports Commission Trophy for the Outstanding Performer of the Year, was awarded to footballer Alex Scott for the second year running. Alex played a starring role for his previous club Bristol City last season, being named the EFL Championship Young Player of the Season. He also received the Bristol City Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year Awards.

Last summer, Alex became Guernsey's first Premier League footballer since 2001 when he signed for AFC Bournemouth in a deal worth up to £25M. He made his debut against Wolverhampton Wanderers in October and scored his first top-flight goal on New Year's Eve against Spurs.

The Richard Burton Salver, for the outstanding individual sporting achievement of the year by a sportsman, was awarded to triathlete Josh Lewis. In his first year as a professional triathlete, Josh placed fifth in the 2023 Ironman 70.3 Vinfast World Championships, making him the first Brit across the line and the highest placed

British male since Alistair Brownlee in 2019. But his most treasured accolade for the year was his superb gold medal winning performance in front of a home crowd at the Island Games in July.

Swimmer Orla Rabey, the most decorated Island Games competitor with six gold, one silver and two bronze medals, added to her bulging trophy cabinet with the Guernsey Brewery Salver, awarded for the outstanding individual sporting achievement by a sportswoman during 2023. The butterfly specialist rewrote the record books with a series of exceptional swims in both the individual and relay events.

Orla was also part of the Women's 4 x 50m medley relay team who won the Sports Commission small team of the year award.

The top junior performer of the year and winner of the Lambourne Trophy was triathlete Thierry Le Cheminant. In another standout year, Thierry was crowned World Age Group U20 Champion in the standard distance triathlon in Pontevedra, Spain, as well as winning two silver medals on home soil as part of the Island Games squad.

Top junior team was the Guernsey Golf team who successfully defended the 2023 junior inter-insular with a dominant performance against Jersey to win 13 matches to one, with the other game halved.

The senior team award was another hard-fought category dominated by Island Games performances. Just edging it were the Women's 4 x 100m relay team taking gold for Guernsey for the first time in 12 years in a tense final at Footes Lane.

There were deserving winners of the two para-sport awards. Sophie Veron collected the Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson Trophy for the para-sport athlete with a physical impairment for her determination to complete her first wheelchair half marathon, as well



ABOVE L-R: GROUP PIC OF THE WINNERS; JOLYON MORTON - WINNER OF THE THE FERBRACHE & FARRELL LLP TROPHY FOR THE PARA-SPORT ATHLETE WITH A LEARNING IMPAIRMENT; JOSH LEWIS (TRIATHLON) - WINNER OF THE RICHARD BURTON SALVER (AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT BY GUERNSEY SPORTS-MAN); GUERNSEY ISLAND GAMES WOMEN'S 4 X 50M MEDLEY RELAY TEAM (SWIMMING) - WINNER OF THE GUERNSEY SPORTS COMMISSION SMALL TEAM TROPHY (AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING TEAM PERFORMANCE FOR FOUR OR LESS COMPETITORS). ALL IMAGES GUERNSEY PRESS.

as returning to training with the British para-cycling squad after a year of setbacks due to ill health.

Dynamics footballer Jolyon Morton was delighted to receive the Ferbrache & Farrell LLP Trophy for the para-sport athlete with a learning impairment.

There was another strong field of nominees for the Sir John Loveridge Trophy, awarded to the sportsperson making the most progress in the year. 16-year-old junior golfer Conor McKenna took the honours for his huge improvement during the year, reducing his handicap by a massive four points and helping both the senior men's and junior teams to inter-insular wins.

The Dave Dorey Memorial Award is presented to the sport or individual who has been involved in coaching or development and made an outstanding contribution to that sport.

The 2023 award went to bowls stalwart Garry Collins who has been a qualified coach, umpire and island official for over 25 years. Garry was the driving force behind the formation of Bowls Guernsey 20 years ago, creating one combined body for international bowls on the island. Since then, over a hundred islanders have travelled away to compete on the international stage, winning over 150 medals including British, European, Commonwealth and World gold medals.

Sports Commission chairman, Jon Ravenscroft, said: 'To have a nomination approved for selection for these awards is an achievement in itself, and so my congratulations to everyone who has been nominated.

'We know that sport has the power to change lives and supports both our physical and mental health. But more than anything, taking part in sport is enjoyable, whether that's playing, officiating, coaching, or volunteering.'

For a full list of nominees and citations and to watch a video of Awards Night please visit guernseysports.com/programmes/sporting-achievement-awards/

BELOW: THE GUERNSEY ISLAND GAMES ORGANISING COMMITTEE - WINNER OF THE SPORT GUERNSEY AND NAUTICAL GUERNSEY SHIELD (AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING EVENT ORGANISER, INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM/CLUB).



Island Games performances naturally dominated the nominations for the 2023 Sporting Achievement Awards. The event brought the whole island together in a spirit of friendly competition showcasing the absolute best of what Guernsey has to offer.

Despite the Games being delayed by two years because of the Covid pandemic, the organising committee never lost their enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring the Guernsey Games were arguably the best yet in the competition's 38-year history.

Everyone will no doubt have their favourite memory of the Games and hopefully the legacy of Guernsey 2023 and the organising committee's aim to inspire islanders will continue to live on long after the Games.

The organising committee were presented with the Sports & Nautical Events Shield for the year's outstanding events organiser.



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FEELING SAFER

Guernsey charity Safer was highlighted recently with the Guernsey Soroptimists' 16-day 'Orange the World' international campaign to promote the elimination of violence against women and girls. The Soroptimists handed out orange painted shoes to businesses in Town to display to support the campaign.

Safer supports and empowers those experiencing domestic abuse, which is a pattern of behaviour toward an intimate partner in a dating or family relationship. Statistics show one in three woman, one in six men and one in five children will experience abuse within their lifetime.

'We recognise that alongside delivering our front line services we need to look at how we can break the cycle of abuse and the importance of education within our community,' said head of service, Naomi Wood. 'Last year we launched our Besafer website, an online resource for young people to access information about relationships. We hope that alongside the work we are delivering within schools, they will have the tools to recognise a healthy/unhealthy relationship and seek help.'

Another initiative is Safer's business training. Work can often be a safe space where people will open up to friends and co-workers, so the charity helps ensure that employers are given the right tools to recognise the signs and support staff.

Safer has a refuge with five bedrooms, although the staff room is often used as a sixth bedroom. 'With the demands and diversity of clients ever-changing, it is vital we evolve to meet demand, so this is always at the forefront of our mind when planning for the future,' said chair, Fiona Naftel.

The charity is part-funded by the Home department, who are responsible for the domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy on island, with the rest coming from local businesses and fund raising.

For further information about Safer visit safer.gg. If you are interested in supporting the charity or business training please contact jo.w@safer.gg

Safer has a 24/7 helpline available on 721999. In an emergency call 999.

GSPCA CALL OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS

The GSPCA's ball to celebrate its 150th anniversary has been postponed from September 2023 to 10 February 2024. Guest speaker is TV wildlife presenter and author, Mike Dilger. An experienced and highly entertaining speaker, Mike delivers speeches on topics such as 'My Diseases and Other Animals' and 'The Trials and Tribulations of a Natural History Presenter'. The ball will be held at St Pierre Park during the GSPCA's 'Purple Week'.

The charity is also looking for volunteers. The Animal Ambulance is manned between 6pm and 8am seven days a week. 'Over 800 volunteers help us every year from individuals to groups and businesses and

we couldn't do so much without all that help and are part of our fabulous team,' said GSPCA manager Steve Byrne. 'The GSPCA really could not do so much without its amazing team of volunteers and supporters which have helped for over 150 years.'

'From the committee to those that walk dogs, fund raisers to those that help with admin, gardeners to those helping with IT, the companies who send their staff to help to so many others, the list goes on and on. We have many roles available for volunteers and are always open to new ideas.'

For tickets to the ball or to contact the GSPCA regarding volunteering, email steve@gspca.org.gg.



JT COMMUNITY GIVING HELPS MORE THAN 120 LOCAL CHARITIES

JT's funding and assistance scheme provides funding, technology and technical support, as well as volunteers for local charities, projects and groups.

The scheme, which was set up a year ago, has supported a wide range of demographics, from schools to the elderly, sports enthusiasts, community groups and more. In Guernsey, 37 organisations were helped, and across the Channel Islands, 124 charities and not-for-profit groups benefitted.

'A year on, we want to reflect on the success of the Community Giving Scheme,' said JT's head of Guernsey enterprise, Kate Marshall. 'We have seen an amazing level of engagement from the community and the reach of this campaign has exceeded our expectations.'

'As a technology company it is fantastic to see the technology and time we have donated make a real difference in the community. Our goal is to keep people connected and our progress this year serves as a testament to the dedication and support of everyone involved.'

'This first year marks the beginning of a sustainable and enduring scheme that will continue to benefit people across the Channel Islands. We look forward to continuing the scheme next year and connect further with our community.'

Beneficiaries in Guernsey included Liberate, Le Marchant Ward, Health Connections, Guernsey Down Syndrome Group, Sark school, Guernsey Air Scouts, Friends of Maggie, the Youth Commission, Mental Health First Aiders and Relate Guernsey.

LOCAL SAILOR MIXES IT WITH WORLD'S BEST

A local sailor has taken part in the Foiling Wasp World Championships in Australia (11 – 16 December 2023), under the banner of The International Stock Exchange's new TISE Private Markets.

As part of the Great Britain team and also sailing under the banner of the Guernsey Yacht Club, Andrew Bridgman finished an extremely creditable 12th out of a field of more than 90 competitors from across the globe.

Mr Bridgman, an actuary who has paused his career to focus on training for the world championships, is a former junior world champion and recent Island Games gold medallist who has previously participated at world championships in the Laser Class and Foiling Wasp Class.

'I've had a great week here racing for the world title,' he said. 'On reflection, 12th was a great result, and although I know there's a lot of potential left untapped, I'll have to wait for the next one to prove it.'

The foiling Wasp is a high-performance solo sailing boat, which reaches speeds up to 30mph, and sees boats racing in close quarters.

TISE provided £5,000 of financial support towards the cost of competing in Australia, including boat, equipment and coaching costs as well as travel and accommodation.





NEW PORTRAIT OF FORMER BAILIFF

A portrait of the former Bailiff, Sir Richard Collas, has been painted by Elizabeth Adams. It will hang in the Royal Court alongside his predecessors, two of whom, Sir de Vic Carey and Sir Graham Dorey, also had portraits painted by Mrs Adams.

She worked from photos taken by John Fitzgerald, whose idea it was to have Town as a backdrop.

Elizabeth College, of which Sir Richard is a former pupil, Victoria Tower and the old court building can be seen.

'I think it's lovely. It captures me,' said the former Bailiff. 'If, when people look at it and think "there's somebody who enjoyed the office of Bailiff, who is proud to be a Guernseyman and is proud to respect the traditions of the office", then I will be delighted.'

SPECSAVERS CO-FOUNDER INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



Co-founder of Specsavers, Dame Mary Perkins, has been inducted into the Great British Entrepreneur Awards Hall of Fame

The award recognises successful entrepreneurs who spend time and energy giving back and supporting other entrepreneurs. Dame Mary has supported GBEA for several years and her induction into the Hall of

Fame recognised her continued support for new business leaders and inspiration.

'I continue to support the GBEA as I am constantly amazed and inspired by the entrepreneurship of the finalists of each year,' she said. 'It's important to support new business ideas and initiatives, and they just keep getting better and better! It's also a joy to be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year, a real privilege to sit amongst so many inspirational businessmen and women.'

The Awards were held at Grosvenor House in London, and the event was hosted by Go Compare's Wynne Evans.

Dame Mary was also at the 2023 Everywoman Entrepreneur Awards where she presented the 'Entrepreneur for Good Award' sponsored by Specsavers. She was among more than 400 women and supporters of female entrepreneurs who united to celebrate the achievements of these extraordinary women and their businesses.

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Water AND
Kit Kat OR
Maltesers OR
Dairy Milk OR
Snack Shortcake

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